

# PINK

THE 65p

A review  
of Saints'  
2016 -  
see inside

Home of Hampshire sport

Saturday, December 31, 2016



**SAINTS 1  
WEST BROM 2**



# UNHAPPY NEW YEAR

**Saints crash to shock home loss**

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**Wilson strikes  
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SAINTS

## Ronald hopeful

Everton boss Ronald Koeman hopes Ross Barkley's late equaliser in Friday's 2-2 draw at Hull can kick-start the misfiring midfielder's season.

Barkley has come in for plenty of criticism following a series of below-par performances under Koeman.

But in front of watching England coach Gareth Southgate his thumping 84th-minute header was a timely reminder of his talent and salvaged a point for his side.

"I hope it really gives Ross a boost," said Koeman, who has dropped the 23-year-old twice this season.

"I think he was the player we expect him to be in his position. We spoke about being more dangerous in front of goal, to have better offensive movements."

"He was really important in the final part of our attacking and he scored an important goal and he was dangerous."

"He was that player that we need to have better support for our strikers."

Barkley was central to Everton's offensive threat throughout at the KCOM Stadium, where he denied Mike Phelan's Tigers a priceless first win since beating Saints 2-1 on November 6.

He headed home Leighton Baines' late cross to haul Everton level for a second time after Robert Snodgrass's brilliant second-half free-kick appeared to have clinched Hull's fourth league success of the season.

Hull skipper Michael Dawson had given the hosts an early lead before goalkeeper David Marshall punched Kevin Mirallas' corner into his own net in first-half stoppage time.

In October Koeman left an out-of-sorts Barkley out of his squad for the game against Manchester City and did so again for the home draw against Manchester United earlier in December.

"I try to start always with the best 11," Koeman added. "Sometimes that can be a tactical question or reason for why somebody's not starting."

"But we need productivity and normally we don't create a lot of opportunities, but here we created a lot and that is one of the positives that we take out of it."

Hull boss Phelan could not hide his frustration after seeing his team undone by another costly error while twice surrendering the lead.

The point was enough to lift the Tigers off the bottom, but Phelan felt another display full of endeavour had not been properly rewarded.



Ronald Koeman.

# Van Dijk is sent off as Saints crash at home yet again

Shane Long celebrates scoring his first Saints goal since May 2.

By Adam Leitch



## TEAM NEWS

Saints: Forster, Martina, Yoshida, van Dijk, McQueen, Romeu, Davis, Hojbjerg, Boufal, Tadic, Long.  
Subs: Taylor, Fonte, Bertrand, Ward-Prowse, Reed, Sims, Rodriguez.

West Brom: Foster, Dawson, McAuley, Evans, Nyom, Yacob, Fletcher, Phillips, Brunt, Chadli, Robson-Kanu.  
Subs: Myhill; Morrison, Gardner, Rondon, McClean, Galloway, Leko.

Claude Puel made six changes to the Saints side beaten 4-1 by Tottenham for

the New Year's Eve fixture with West Brom.

Three of the back four were rotated with Cedric Soares, Jose Fonte and Ryan Bertrand all out and replaced by Cuco Martina, Maya Yoshida and Sam McQueen.

In midfield, James Ward-Prowse dropped to the bench with Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg coming in.

Up front Dusan Tadic and Shane Long replaced the suspended Nathan Redmond and Jay Rodriguez.

but sliced it well over, while Tadic fired wide when hitting a half cleared corner on the volley three minutes later.

Boufal came a lot closer on 22 minutes when good persistence on the left saw him come away with the ball and fire a low shot across goal. It would have been an excellent cross had anyone been able to get to it and turn it home from close range, but as it was it arrowed wide of the far post.

## Threaten

Sam McQueen was the next to threaten from outside the area as an awful Tadic free kick on 26 minutes was flicked just outside the area for the youngster to fire in a drilled low effort that whistled just wide.

With Saints having been unable to get the early goal to open the game up, the expected pattern of the match continued.

The Baggies seemed entirely content to keep defending deep, while Saints were struggling for answers in terms of how to open them up.

There were two bookings in quick succession as Virgil van

in the opening moments, and was exactly as many had predicted.

West Brom looked very well organised, had at least ten men behind the ball, with a deep bank of four and another of five in front.

They looked quite content to just sit in and challenge Saints to break them down.

It allowed Saints plenty of possession in deep areas, but to try and stretch the play and find resulting gaps through the middle was going to be a tough ask, un-

less they could get an early goal and draw the Baggies out.

Saints so nearly carved an opening on three minutes as a wonderful reverse pass from Dusan Tadic found the run of Shane Long on the right.

He drilled a low cut back cross just in front of the six yard box but there was no Saints player quite advanced enough to take advantage.

Sofiane Boufal tried an effort from 20 yards out on 11 minutes

# PINK

# SAINTS



Shane Long heads Saints into the lead.

Dijk and Allan Nyom were shown yellow cards by Mike Jones but nothing came of the free kicks they conceded at either end.

Saints did manage to get the breakthrough four minutes before half time and it came via a set piece.

Tadic whipped in an inswinging right wing free kick that found a darting near post run from Long.

He had totally lost his marker Nyom and produced a fantastic flicked header from six yards out that Ben Foster got a hand to away to his left but couldn't prevent hitting the top corner thanks to the pace the striker generated on the ball.

However, the lead lasted only moments as West Brom levelled things up on 43 minutes.

Saints failed to shut down a slick passing move from West Brom that saw Claudio Yacob feed the ball into the feet of Chris Brunt, who flicked it forward.

## Controversy

It took a slight deflection to find Matt Phillips just inside the area, he jinked to his right to get away from Maya Yoshida and curled a superb right footed finish into the bottom corner for 1-1.

There was controversy moments before the break as Nyom narrowly avoided a second yellow card.

He tried to win the ball from Long somewhat over-enthusiastically to give away a foul and get a



Virgil van Dijk is shown a yellow card for a foul on Hal Robson-Kanu, who celebrates his winner (above).

final warning from Jones.

From the free kick Foster stood strong at his near post to keep out Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg to ensure it was level at the break.

The Baggies made a sensible change at the break with Nyom coming off before he was sent off to be replaced by James McClean.

West Brom were celebrating again five minutes after the restart as they took the lead.

It was more slack defending from Saints as they gave the ball away and saw Phillips poke a pass through to Hal Robson-Kanu who had pulled away from van Dijk.

He unleashed a stinging left footed strike from just outside the area that was moving away from Fraser Forster. The keeper still got a hand to it diving to his right but couldn't keep it out.



Boufal nearly pulled out a stunner to equalise but his curling effort was just off target.

Saints made a first change on 53 minutes with Jay Rodriguez replacing Hojbjerg while West Brom responded with James Morrison coming on for Nacer Chaldi.

It almost got worse for Saints on 57 minutes as Phillips' left wing cross found the head of Morrison but Forster saved.

## Curious

Saints' curious new formation, which saw Long and Rodriguez up front with Tadic and Boufal both in behind, wasn't looking much like breaching the West Brom back line, and the frustration levels were rising at St Mary's.

Puel made a double change

with 15 minutes left to try and get Saints back into it with James Ward-Prowse replacing Cuco Martina in a right back role he was unaccustomed to and Josh Sims on for Tadic.

West Brom had a brief scare as Romeu charged down a Forster clearance but the keeper was relieved to see the ball roll safely wide.

The misery was compounded for Saints in the closing minutes as van Dijk hauled back Rondon and was shown a second yellow card followed by a red, meaning he is now suspended for Monday's trip to Everton.

Saints had failed to create much with 11 men, and so it was inevitable they would carve out no further chances with ten as they slipped to a miserable defeat.

## Puel: We're in a 'difficult moment'

Claude Puel admitted Saints are in a "difficult moment" after suffering back-to-back home defeats in the space of just four days.

Saints followed up their 4-1 drubbing by Tottenham at St Mary's with a 2-1 loss to West Brom on their own turf.

They have less than 48 hours to try and recover and turn things around for a trip to Everton.

Puel said: "All these feelings (anger and frustration) and I am disappointed for all the squad.

"They work very well, there is strong work, very good spirit and I think it's a pity because on the two last games it's the same scenario with a good start, quality, scoring first, and after we took a goal just on the first chance for the opponent.

"Our final red card as well against Tottenham is a bad scenario and I think we are unlucky in this moment.

"After we can do better to prevent this goal with more concentration and today perhaps after to score it will be important to keep a clean sheet and strong concentration but we lack perhaps work because it's a young squad. Perhaps it's our fault for this.

"After I think all the players gives all the possibilities, sometimes in the second half without good lucidity.

"It's a difficult moment for the squad and I think all the team know the situation of the season.

"Now it's important to keep our calm, have good spirit and a good reaction for the next game with strong character and the work is



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## Wilson gives Allen first league win

### NATIONAL LEAGUE Boreham Wood 0 Eastleigh 1

EASTLEIGH have their first league victory under manager Martin Allen.

The Spittfires atoned for conceding a late equaliser in Tuesday's 2-2 draw with Boreham Wood by edging the return match 1-0 at Meadow Park in today's 1pm kick-off.

Scott Wilson's goal early in the second half settled the issue, giving Eastleigh their first three-point haul in the National League since November 22 at Aldershot.

Ex-Barnet boss Allen made a raft of changes from midweek, welcoming back Michael Green from a heavy cold and loan man Hakeem Odoffin from suspension.

Adam Dugdale – fighting fit again after a lengthy injury – partnered Bondz N'Gala in central defence, while Wilson replaced Mikael Mandron up



Scott Wilson

top.

Luke Coulson – subject of interest from several Football League clubs – was left out of the squad entirely, opening the door for ex-Sutton wide man Ross Stearn to make a rare start.

With on-loan Arsenal goalkeeper Ryan Huddle still sidelined by a sore knee, 19-year-old academy graduate Mark Childs again donned the gloves after deservedly taking the man-of-the-match plaudits on Tuesday.

Eastleigh started brightly, bossing the early exchanges – their best chance coming with five minutes gone.

Stearns, who had squandered a gilt-edged opportunity just prior to Wood's stoppage-time leveller at the Silverlake, volleyed wide on the bounce from Tyler Garratt's cross.

Childs, formerly on the Saints Second Chance Programme at the Sparsholt College Academy, had precious little to occupy him in the first half-hour.

**Continued on facing page**

# PINK CHERRIES FOOTBALL

# Cherries pile on

By Mark Staniforth

Managerless Swansea will welcome in the new year bottom of the Premier League after Bournemouth completed a comfortable 3-0 victory at the Liberty Stadium.

Benik Afobe and Ryan Fraser scored first-half goals before substitute Josh King added the gloss two minutes from time.

The Cherries inflicted a fourth successive defeat on Swansea who face a huge task to avoid the drop in 2017.

Swansea hope to have a new manager in charge for Tuesday's trip to Crystal Palace - former Derby boss and current Bayern Munich assistant Paul Clement is the favourite - but it will need some rescue act to prolong the club's top-flight stay.

Having sacked Bob Bradley after the Boxing Day drubbing by West Ham, Swansea were looking for an immediate lift under the caretaker charge of Alan Curtis. Hull's draw with Everton on Friday night had dropped the Welsh side to the foot of the table.

It is not an unfamiliar task for club stalwart Curtis, who has held the fort in the past when times have been challenging, but Swansea have never had it so bad in the Premier League with only 12 points at the halfway point of the season.

For Bournemouth, however, it is indeed a happy new year with Eddie Howe's easy-on-the-eye Cherries greeting 2017 in 10th place on 24 points and looking upwards, rather than below.

Former Saints striker Curtis made seven changes from Bradley's final team selection and, with the toxic atmosphere of Boxing Day having gone with the American, it seemed as if he had addressed one of the problems inside 30 seconds.

Swansea have regularly been accused of being too nice and not getting in the faces of opponents, but Ki Sung-yeung was booked inside 30 seconds for felling Fraser.

But Swansea's customary failings were still evident, as they were easily bypassed in midfield and their soft centre of a defence proved unable to withstand pressure when it was applied.

Bournemouth were enjoying time and space in possession with the on-loan Jack Wilshere the heartbeat of a midfield which took a firm grip on proceedings.

Junior Stanislas had an early sighter which Lukasz Fabianski tipped over, but Bournemouth did not have to wait long for the lead with Swansea contributing to their downfall after 27 minutes.



AFC Bournemouth's Joshua King (right) celebrates scoring his side's third goal of the game with his team-mates during the Premier League match at the Liberty Stadium,

Afobe shook off the attention of Alfie Mawson far too easily and Wilshere's pass to Fraser sounded panic stations in Swansea ranks as Jordi Amat turned the Scot's cross goalwards.

Fabianski produced an excellent point-blank to prevent an own goal, but Afobe was the first to react and strike the rebound home.

Amat's embarrassment was compounded by a booking which rules him out of the Crystal Palace game, and there was more misery for the Spaniard and his fellow defenders after Stanislas had seen his effort correctly ruled out for offside.

On the stroke of half-time Swansea stood like statues as Stanislas played a one-two with Wilshere

and fed the ball across the six-yard box for Fraser to finish for his second goal in four games.

By then, Curtis had already introduced the pace of Modou Barrow to sharpen an attack which failed to muster a single on-target attempt in the first half.

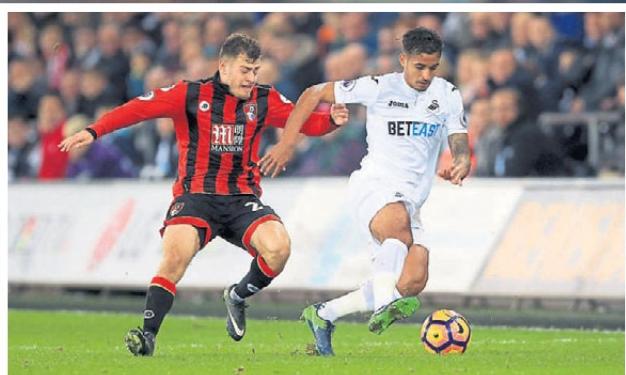
But Bournemouth were rampant on the counter-attack and Stanislas and Afobe should have

# PINK CHERRIES FOOTBALL

# agony for Swans



AFC Bournemouth's Ryan Fraser, above, scores at the Liberty Stadium. Below - Benik Afobe celebrates his strike.



AFC Bournemouth's Ryan Fraser (left) and Swansea City's Kyle Naughton battle for the ball

extended the lead.

However, as Swansea huffed and puffed, King scampered through in the closing stages to secure a scoreline which did not flatter Bournemouth in the slightest.

● Chelsea equalled the Premier League record for the most consecutive wins in a season despite conceding twice for the first time since September.

The Blues tied Arsenal's mark of 13 matches from 2001/02 with a 4-2 victory over Stoke at Stamford Bridge.

The Potters provided Antonio Conte's men with one of their toughest tests and Bruno Martins Indi cancelled out Gary Cahill's opener just after half-time.

Willian put Chelsea back in front but ex-Saint Peter Crouch

netted his first Premier League goal in two seasons to equalise in the 64th minute.

However, parity lasted just a minute before Willian netted again, and Diego Costa made sure with a fourth in the 85th minute for the league leaders.

Chelsea now stand one win away from matching Arsenal's 14-match winning run, which ran

from facing page

On the one occasion the hosts looked threatening, Green's solid defending inside the six-yard box snuffed out the danger from Morgan Ferrier.

Having scored three times in Allen's first two league games as manager, striker James Constable's season has suddenly burst into life.

Twice he went close in the 27th and 31st minutes, firing one shot over from Green's cross and having another, on the turn, saved by Wood keeper Grant Smith following lively work by Wilson.

With just over five first-half minutes to play, there was danger for the visitors when Angelo Balanta slipped Anthony Jeffrey through, but Eastleigh defended strongly again through ex-Morecambe man Dugdale.

Boreham Wood upped the pressure with half-time approaching and Spittires' midfielder Sam Togwell kept his wits about him to hook Ferrier's goalbound header clear before another Wood strike appeared to clip the bar on its way over.

● Champions Leicester won just their second Premier League match since October, 1-0 against West Ham.

In an end-to-end game, it was a

surprise there was only one goal, scored by Islam Slimani in the 20th minute.

Andre Gray became the first Burnley player to score a hat-trick in the Premier League as the Clarets put more distance between themselves and the bottom three with a 4-1 victory over Sunderland.

Gray, who scored the winner against Middlesbrough on Boxing Day, put Burnley ahead in the 31st minute and then added two in three minutes shortly after half-time.

Ashley Barnes made it four from the penalty spot and Jermain Defoe's strike did nothing to brighten Sunderland's afternoon.

● Play-off chasers Sheffield Wednesday and Huddersfield both left it late to end 2016 with 1-1 draws in the Sky Bet Championship.

Wednesday were heading for defeat at Preston following Sam Hutchinson's 77th-minute own goal but Adam Reach struck four minutes into stoppage time to keep the Owls in the top six.

Earlier, Yorkshire rivals Huddersfield also scored four minutes into time added on to draw with lowly Blackburn.

Nahki Wells curled home a brilliant late free-kick to cancel out Danny Graham's 81st-minute header.

Rovers remain in the bottom three despite halting their four-match losing run, while Huddersfield end 2016 in fourth place.

QPR ended their horrendous run of form by beating Wolves 2-1.

Ian Holloway's men had lost their last six games and failed to score in the previous four.

The goal drought was ended when Idrissa Sylla scored in the 53rd minute.

Dave Edwards equalised for Wolves just after the hour mark but Pawel Wszolek struck with three minutes left to lift his side five points clear of the bottom three.

The teenager did better still with six minutes of normal time remaining with a breathtaking double stop.

Having used strong hand to take the sting out of sub Bruno Andrade's goalbound shot, he miraculously sprang up and stopped it crossing the line to keep the Spittires' slender lead intact.

Eastleigh: Mark Childs, Michael Green, Adam Dugdale, Tyler Garratt, Hakeem Odofin, Bondz O'Gala, Ross Stearn (Ben Stretton, 79), Jai Reason (Connor Essam, 57), Sam Togwell, Scott Wilson (Ryan Bird, 62), James Constable. Subs (not used): David Pipe, Mikael Mandron.

Referee: Craig Hicks



Adam Dugdale

Mare marksman coolly nicked the ball past the 'keeper before netting his fourth goal of the campaign.

Jeffrey shot wide and Childs made his first save of the match from Femi Ilesanmi as Wood responded and then Constable drew another stop from Smith at the other end.

With 57 minutes gone Allen replaced Jai Reason with the more defensively-minded Connor Essam and, five minutes later, goal scorer Wilson made way for transfer-listed targetman Ryan Bird.

Predictably the Spittires had to soak up plenty of late pressure as Boreham Wood threw everything forward in search of an equaliser, but young Childs stood up well to sub Ricky Shakes' power-packed strike.

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**PINK****NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL****Claridge confident**

STEVE Claridge believes Salisbury can challenge for second spot in the Southern One South & West - as long as their injury fortunes change.

The Whites picked up a fifth straight league win on Boxing Day, triumphing 2-0 at AFC Totton's expense courtesy of second-half goals from Lewis Benson and Justin Bennett.

Heading into the new year, they are on 41 points, nine behind second-placed Tiverton Town.

It's a gap manager Claridge feels they are capable of closing, but only if their list of walking wounded starts to shrink.

"If we had a fit squad, I would say we would be second to Hereford," said the boss. "I can say that now, hand on heart, if we



Lewis Benson

have a reasonably fit squad – but we haven't seen that."

Even the AFC Totton victory was bittersweet for Salisbury who had Brandon Mundy stretchered off with an ankle injury.

The left-sided attacker joins Danny Young, Callum Hart and Calum Brockway on Whites' long-term casualty list.

One man who stood out for Claridge against Totton – and the first half of the season in general – was Benson.

The midfielder has been a shining light since signing from Sydenhams Premier outfit Andover Town during the summer.

"Lewis Benson has been fantastic," said the boss. "For once, my timing has been alright!"

"He has been a marvellous acquisition."

Whites' next fixture is a January 2 trip to Wimborne Town (3pm).

**Spitfires' season of goodwill at local hospital**

Eastleigh FC's first-team squad visit Southampton General Hospital.

EASTLEIGH'S first-team squad took time out from training for a very good cause over Christmas.

The Spitfires brightened up the lives of some of Hampshire's poorly youngsters by making their annual festive visit to Southampton General Hospital's children's ward.

The Vanarama National League club, who

pride themselves on their work in the community, did not arrive empty-handed.

The players went loaded up with cute Eastleigh FC teddy bears to hand out while they were chatting to the youngsters.

The club tweeted: "EFC first team were delighted to visit the Children's Ward @ Soton Hospital. Big smiles from the players & our

EFC bears!"

It was Eastleigh's second Christmas visit to the hospital and their third in total over the last year.

The club's successful Easter Egg Campaign saw Spitfires supporters generously donate chocolate eggs and Easter goodies to be distributed among children and their families.

**City's fine run is halted by Holmes**

By Wendy Gee

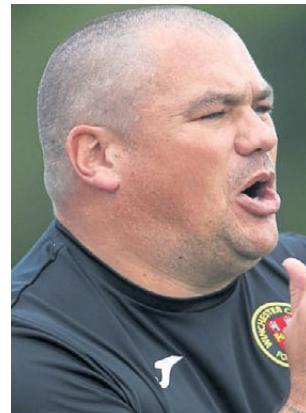


IT speaks volumes for Winchester City's recent rise to prominence that Wimborne Town boss Matty Holmes was so elated to beat them on Tuesday.

After winning five league games on the bounce in December, City fell at the final hurdle, undone by a first-half Toby Holmes goal in a 1-0 defeat at the Denplan City Ground.

Holmes, one of several Wimborne players struggling with illness, applied the killer blow after 21 minutes to ensure the Magpies took all three Southern One South & West points back to Dorset.

Left-back Paddy Hester closed down Joe Briggs' space on the half-way line and Luke Holmes



Ian Saunders.

stole in to wrestle possession from the Winchester winger.

Holmes duly picked out his teammate and namesake, Toby, who slotted the ball through the

legs of City's keeper Lewis Noice for his 22nd goal of the season.

Winchester had chances to rescue a point after the break but were denied by some solid resistance from Magpies' No1 Gerard Benfield.

Benfield's finest moment came when City sub Jason Silver streaked through only to be repelled at point-blank range.

While Winchester boss Ian Saunders took to social media to apologise for his team's performance, his Cuthbury counterpart Holmes was a happy man.

"It was the result of the season in terms of the squad sticking together. I was absolutely thrilled with the performance," he beamed.

"We had quite a few players under the weather, but they all wanted to play."

"The game was dour second-half, but it was nice that a Wimborne team could shut up shop, be

organised and deal with threats. We have that resolve now."

Saunders, who was deprived of his 24-goal leading scorer Craig Feeney due to a Christmas break and injured skipper Stuart Green, took to City's unofficial fans' message board to apologise.

Until Tuesday, Winchester had enjoyed a perfect December, culminating in a 7-0 slaying of Slimbridge just a week earlier.

He wrote: "On behalf of all involved, may I apologise for today's performance. We were nowhere near our recent levels and we are gutted to end the year with this result."

"From front to back we weren't at the races today."

"Thanks again for your support so far and I can only apologise for what we served up today."

The January 2 showdown between AFC Totton and Winchester kicks off at 3pm at the Testwood Stadium.

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

## Moneys boss Dave furious with former club

If Dave Carter's old club Horndean were not already crossed off his Christmas card list, they are now!

The Moneyfields boss was fuming with the Deans for pulling out of Tuesday's Sydenham Premier derby clash at Dover Road at 24 hours' notice.

Horndean tweeted: "As a result of sickness & injury we have consulted with the league & agreed to postpone Tues game Vs Moneyfields."

"Apologies for any inconvenience - we will

advise of the new date as soon as it becomes available."

But that was like a red rag to a bull for Moneys' boss Carter whose side are the Wessex League's festive No1.

"In eight years I was manager at Horndean, I never called a game off once," he fumed.

"The Horndean match was a big Christmas game for the club and we were expecting a bumper crowd."

As well as raging about lost revenue, Carter also fears a dangerous precedent is being set.

"We have already seen Bemerton Heath and Hamble Club get away with calling games off. The league should be docking clubs points if they fail to fulfill a fixture," he said.

Horndean boss Michael Birmingham insisted he had tried his "utmost" to get a team out but claimed his players were "dropping like flies."

He could have fielded youth players but wasn't prepared to throw 16-year-olds into such a "pressure situation" against a big, strong Moneyfields side.

# £50,000 boost for ex-Saint Nathan

**By Wendy Gee**



A CAMPAIGN to help a former Saints and AFC Totton footballer suffering with excruciatingly painful cluster headaches has raised in excess of £50,000.

In his early teens striker Nathan Jack had high hopes of a professional career when he was talent-spotted at a Saints satellite centre in Slough.

But all that changed when he was diagnosed with a brain tumour at the age of 15.

Jack underwent a major operation and, with football strictly off-limits, was forced to cut his ties with Saints.

He eventually started playing again, starring for non-League Bracknell Town before becoming part of Stuart Ritchie's highly successful AFC Totton side of the late Noughties.

But ever since his teenage days Jack has suffered from a neurological condition which, over the last three years, has gone from bad to worse.

### Severe pain

Now living in Newcastle with his wife-to-be Natalie, Jack is plagued by agonising cluster headaches, causing severe pain on one side of the head. It means he can no longer work or drive and he struggles to leave the house.

Describing his agony, Jack said: "It feels like a red-hot poker trying to push my eye out."

"My eyes start streaming, I start kicking and screaming, and sometimes I even black out."

There is no cure for cluster headaches, but Jack's close friend and former AFC Totton teammate Ryan Hill has stepped in to pro-



Nathan Jack in action for AFC Totton.

mote awareness of the condition and to raise funds to make the 29-year-old's life more bearable.

Hill, who works in Winchester and lives in the New Forest, ex-

plained: "Nathan and I played football together for years. He's one of my closest friends."

"There's a whole group of us boys involved. There's Jamie

Whiskin, Ryan Moss and James Coutts who were all at Totton, and Marvin Brooks from Poole Town. (Liverpool and England's ex-Saint) Adam Lallana is also in our circle of friends.

"We can't just sit back and watch Nathan suffering such pain."

"When these cluster headaches come on, he's incapacitated and he can have up to six or seven episodes a day."

"Each brutal attack can last between 15 minutes and three hours."

Nathan and Natalie are due to get married in Northumberland in April, but the wedding plans have had to be put on hold.

"He can't get married because of the attacks he's having. Also, he's not working, so his fiancée is supporting him financially," Hill explained.

"We've talked about doing a fund-raising match for him through AFC Totton at some stage but, for the moment, most of it's going through the platform of a Justgiving page we've set up online."

### Wedding

"Nathan desperately needs a private operation which will cost £35-40,000. The waiting time on the NHS is six months."

"We raised £45,000 in just five days, but we need to raise more because he's got a wedding to pay for and he needs help with medical bills."

"The operation won't cure the cluster headaches, but it will allow him to control the attacks."

"We need to help change Nathan's life."

"This is no way for a young man, who has everything going for him, to live his life."

● To make a donation please go to: <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/nathjacksfight4life>

### NON LEAGUE FIXTURES

Sunday, January 1

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Woking v Aldershot (1.00), Chester v Solihull Moors, Forest Green v Torquay, Lincoln v Guiseley, Maclesfield v Tranmere, Southport v Wrexham, Sutton v Bromley, York v North Ferriby, Maidstone v Dover (BT Sport 6.00).

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

SOUTH  
Bishops Stortford v Chelmsford, East Thurrock v Concord, Ebbsfleet v Dartford, Hayes & Riemsdijk v Hemel Hempstead, Hungerford v Bath City, Maidenhead v Wealdstone, Oxford City v St Albans, Welling v Margate, Weston-super-Mare v Truro, Whitehawk v Eastbourne Borough.  
EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE  
Division One South & West: AFC Totton v Winchester City (3.00), Bideford v Taunton, Bridgwater v Paulton, Hereford v Evesham, Larkhall v Yeate, Mangotsfield v Bishops Cleeve, North Leigh v Didcot, Shortdown v Slimbridge, Tiverton v Barnstaple, Wantage v Swindon Supermarine, Wimborne v Salisbury (3.00).

Monday, January 2

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Dagenham & Redbridge v Braintree (BT Sport 4.45).  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
SOUTH  
Poole Town v Gosport Borough (3.00)  
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Coldest Common v Hedge End Rangers (12.00).

Tuesday, January 3

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: AFC Portchester v Moneyfields, Amesbury v Fareham, Blackfield & Langley v Cowes Sports, Bournemouth Poppies v Bemerton HH, Hamworthy v Brockenhurst, Horndean v Aylesford, Lympington Town v Portland, Newport IoW v Bashey (7.30), Sholing v Andover Town, Team Solent v Fawley.

Division One: AFC Stoneham v East Cowes, AFC Balmoral v Baffins MR v Alton, Lawrence & Ford v Shaftesbury, New Milton v Downton, Ryde v Christchurch, Romsey v Fleet Spurs.  
PUMA ENGINEERING HAMPSHIRE  
PREMIER LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Andover Lions v Overton.

Wednesday, January 4

SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Verwood v Whitchurch.  
Division One: Andover NS v Pewsey Vale.

Friday, January 6

EMIRATES FA CUP  
Third round: West Ham v Manchester City (BBC 1, 7.55).  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Brockenhurst v Bemerton.

Saturday, January 7

EMIRATES FA CUP  
Third round: Manchester Utd v Reading (BT Sport 2, 12.30), Ipswich v Lincoln, Barrow v Rochdale, Hull v Swansea, Sunderland v Burnley, QPR v Blackburn, Millwall v AFC Bournemouth, Brighton & Hove v MK Dons, Blackpool v Barnsley, Wigan v Notts Forest, Birmingham City v Newcastle, WBA v Derby, Everton v Leicester, Wycombe v Stourbridge, Watford v Burton Albion, Stoke v Wolves, Bristol City v Fleetwood, Huddersfield v Port Vale, Brentford v Eastleigh, Bolton v Crystal Palace, Norwich v Southampton, Sutton v AFC Wimborne, Accrington Stanley v Luton, Rotherham v Oxford Utd, Preston v Arsenal (BT Sport 2, 5.30).  
VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE  
Aldershot v Southport, Braintree v Chester, Bromley v Forest Green, Dover v York, Guiseley v Maidstone, North Ferriby v Dagenham & Redbridge, Solihull Moors v Gateshead, Torquay v Boreham Wood, Wrexham v Woking.

VANARAMA NATIONAL LEAGUE

SOUTH  
Bath City v Hampton & Richmond, Chelmsford v Whitehawk, Concord Rangers v Weston-super-Mare, Dartford v East Thurrock, Eastbourne Borough v Poole Town, Gosport Borough v Hungerford, Hemel Hempstead v Welling, Margate v Bishops Stortford, St Albans v Maidenhead, Truro v Oxford City, Wealdstone v Ebbsfleet.

EVO-STIK SOUTHERN LEAGUE

Division One South & West: Bideford v Lympstone, Bishops Cleeve v Bridgwater, Didcot v Totton, Evesham, Mangotsfield, Peartree v Hereford, Salisbury v North Leigh, Slimbridge v Shortdown, Swindon Supermarine v Wimborne, Taunton v AFC Totton, Winchester City v Shortwood, Yeate v Wantage.

BUILDBASE FA VASE

Fourth round: Team Solent v Croydon.  
SYDENHAMS WESSEX LEAGUE  
Premier Division: Andover Town v Amesbury, Cowes Sports v Bournemouth Poppies, Fareham v Horndean, Hamworthy v Blackfield & Langley, Moneyfields v Verwood, Newport IoW v Aylesford, Portland v AFC Portchester, Sholing v Fawley, Whitchurch v Lympington.

Division One: Alton v Hythe & Dibden, East Cowes v Romsey Town, Fleet Spurs v Baffins MR, Fordland Sports v New Milton, Pewsey Vale v Downton, Shaftesbury v Andover NS, Tadley Calleva v Hamble Club, Totton & Eling v US Portsmouth, Weymouth v Christchurch.

**PINK****NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL****Jermyn's emotional farewell**

AN EMOTIONAL Mark Jermyn admitted he "could not have wished for a better send-off" as he ended his reign in charge of Dorchester Town at the Avenue Stadium.

The Magpies were held to a 1-1 Southern Premier draw by rivals Weymouth as both player/boss Jermyn - who recently played his 700th game for the club - and player/assistant Nick Crittenden said goodbye to the county town set-up.

**Guard of honour**

The pair were given a guard of honour by their teammates as they left the field.

Sharing the farewells was skipper Jake Smeeton who is also flying the

**Mark Jermyn.**

Magpies' nest and joining Poole Town.

Jermyn, who came off the bench to replace goalscorer Nathan Walker, said: "Obviously it's an emotional finish for me in front of a home crowd and in front of family, friends, and supporters that have seen me play over the years."

**'Utmost respect'**

"The fans said to me that I'm going to be missed and I'm going to miss everybody at the club. It's not something I am going to switch off from very easily."

Setting aside local rivalry, Weymouth boss Jason Matthews said: "Great credit must go to Jem (Jermyn), I have the utmost respect for him as a person and a player."

"He will take some replacing for Dorchester Town FC."

**Ex-Eastleigh keeper denies derby 'punch'****Jason Matthews**

WEYMOUTH boss Jason Matthews confirmed he was involved in a post-match incident following the 1-1 derby draw at Dorchester Town, but denied any wrongdoing on his part.

The Terras' player-manager went over to clap the visiting supporters following the Southern Premier showdown at the Avenue Stadium when an altercation was believed to have taken place.

A post on social media directed at Matthews accused him of "fighting your own fans".

Asked by the Pink's sister paper

The Dorset Echo for his account of the incident, former Eastleigh goalkeeper Matthews said: "I went over to clap the fans for their great support and a couple have directed something towards me."

**Passions run high**

"I actually said to them: 'What would you have done about it?' They said: 'I would have won'. I was trying to have a conversation with one lad and two or three other people tried to get involved."

Matthews continued: "For me it's something and nothing, passions run high when people have had a drink. It's a derby day and, as far as I'm concerned, the matter is forgotten."

"I have been accused for the last couple of games of not clapping the fans, so I went round and clapped them. "From my point of view I have not thrown any punches or anything or done anything."

"I would quite happily challenge anyone that said I tried to throw a punch."

**Graham's Stack of experience**

**By Wendy Gee**



EASTLEIGH are bringing in a 'Stack' of goalkeeping experience for the new year.

Graham Stack will officially join the Vanarama National League club as player/goalkeeping coach on January 1.

Another member of boss Martin Allen's Conference title-winning Barnet side of 2014/15, the 35-year-old former Republic of Ireland under-21 'keeper will sign an 18-month contract for the Spitties.

Stack started out with Arsenal, making five appearances for the Gunners.

In a career spanning 300 games, he played for Reading, Plymouth, Hibernian and numerous clubs on loan before making 125 appearances for Barnet.

He left the Bees in July this year even though Allen did all he could to try and persuade him to stay.

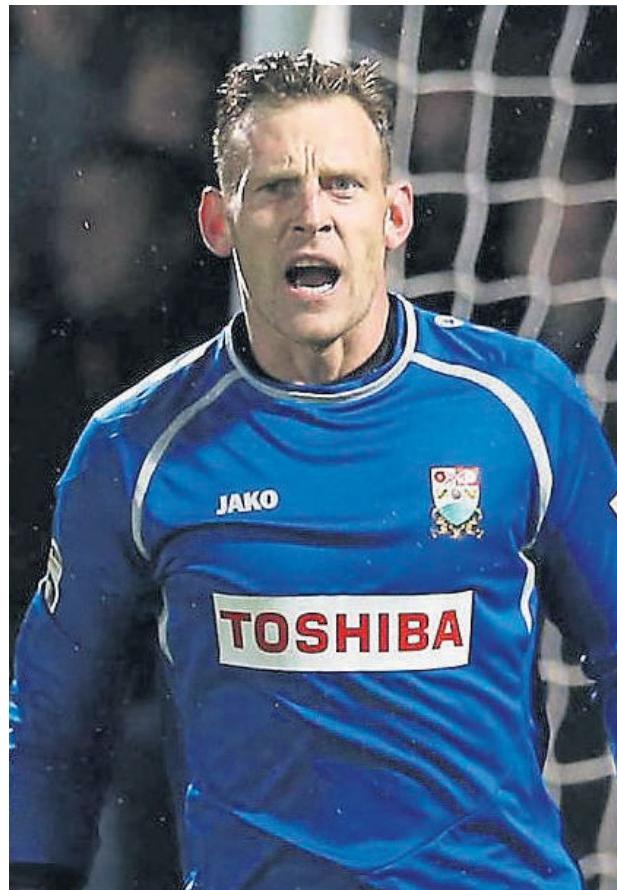
**Trusty stopper**

Most recently Stack has been a player/goalkeeping coach with Kerala Blasters of the Indian Super League.

At the time of his trusty stopper leaving Barnet, Allen said: "Graham is an outstanding character who is very popular with all the players."

"If I ever needed anything doing within the dressing room, I knew that he would sort it out for me and make sure that everything was done the right way."

"I think the word 'legend' is used too often in football."

**Graham Stack**

"I can't make that judgement but I'm sure he would have to be moving towards that bracket."

"He's a model professional who was very helpful on the coaching

was handed his Vanarama National League debut in front of a live BT Sport audience against Boreham Wood.

With one loanee 'keeper Scott Brown having returned to Wycombe and the other, Arsenal's Ryan Huddart, nowhere to be seen, Childs - who earned England under-18 colleges recognition as a Sparsholt student - weighed in with a man-of-the-match display in a 2-2 draw.

Praising Childs' performance, Stack said: "He was outstanding."

"I worked with him once before today and he looked more than capable."

"He looked a confident young lad and he kicked the ball well."

"It's not easy making your full debut in front of the cameras."

With the clock ticking towards a fifth and final minute of stoppage time, Eastleigh looked to be heading for a 2-1 victory in Allen's first home league game in charge.

After James Constable had had his eighth-minute opener scrubbed out by Morgan Ferrier, striker Mikael Mandron restored the Spitties' advantage from the spot.

But, despite Childs' heroics, Eastleigh were culpable of some messy defending having lost skipper and backline colossus Reda Johnson to injury with just over half-an-hour gone.

They paid the price when sub Danny Woodards scrambled the ball home with almost the last kick.

"It was a real shame," reflected Stack. "But 2-2 was probably a fair result."

Childs tweeted: "Buzzing to have made my Professional debut today for @EastleighFC shame we couldn't hold on for a win!"

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# 'We don't need coaching badges'

By Neil  
Perrett

ALEX Pike reckons Football League clubs have missed a trick by failing to take a punt in management on both him and Tom Killick.

Gosport Borough boss Pike and Poole Town counterpart Killick have led their respective clubs from the Wessex League to National South.

But despite being two of the most successful figures in non-League, neither Pike nor Killick has managed any higher than step two in the pyramid.

Killick, a litigation executive by profession, scored twice when Pike masterminded Wimborne's famous FA Vase triumph over Guiseley at Wembley in 1992.

## Motivated

Pike said: "Neither of us have done it with money, it has been down to contacts and hard work.

"I know Tom has a good job and I had two businesses in the early days so maybe our jobs were more important.

"But football isn't rocket science. It's about player recruitment and getting them organised and motivated. It's not difficult and I've been doing it for 30-odd years. I've always won things and been successful and so has Tom.

"Maybe people don't rate the level and don't think we have done our apprenticeships. I think we have done our apprenticeships and more.

"A lot of these clubs want to go down the route of having ex-pros as managers and I don't think the FA helps because they want all managers to be qualified as coaches.

"My argument is that they are two completely different roles. I don't want to be a coach, I employ coaches. I am a manager and it's about managing the business, the players and the staff.

## Understand football

"Both Tom and I understand football and we know how to organise and manage people. Why do we need to have a coaching badge?

"If there was a course where you could get a qualification in management I would do it, but I don't want to be a coach."

Pike, who also took Gosport to the final of the FA Trophy in



Poole Town boss Tommy Killick and, below, his former Wimborne boss Alex Pike.

2014, got one over Killick when Boro beat Poole in the Southern League Division One South & West play-off final in 2012.

Despite the setback – and after overcoming numerous hurdles with their ground – Poole won promotion to the National League South after being crowned Southern Premier champions last season.

The Dolphins have made themselves at home at the higher level – their 2-0 Boxing Day win over Pike's Gosport keeping them seventh.

Speaking beforehand, Pike added: "They (Poole) have surprised me, but I know what it was like when we first came up. In the first season you have the momentum and euphoria after being promoted.

"We are in our fourth season

and are finding it difficult. We both have small budgets and my players started getting picked off by the likes of Ebbsfleet and clubs like that.

"You've got to know where you are in the food chain. Once you start getting noticed, people start coming in for your players.

## Difficult time

"It's a difficult time for us at the moment and we have been through ups and downs. We have new owners taking over in the new year, which will be exciting but they haven't taken over yet.

"At the moment I would be the first to say that we are not at our best. That is not an excuse, it is a fact. The past few months have been tough and lesser managers would have walked away, but I am not prepared to do that."



## Ridley steps down

SALISBURY chairman David Phillips has thanked Ian Ridley after the journalist and author stood down as vice-chairman of the Southern One South & West club.

Along with Phillips, Ridley was one of a five-strong consortium who bought the assets of the old Salisbury City FC to form Salisbury FC two years ago.

Ridley stated: "It is with regret that, due to personal circumstances, I am standing down from the board of Salisbury Football Club, though I hope to remain active in helping the club going forward as far as I possibly can.

"Since joining Steve Claridge, Dave Phillips, Jeremy Harwood and Graeme Mundy in helping to establish the new club in



Ian Ridley

October 2014, I have been immensely proud of the work we have all done in bringing football back to Salisbury and in seeking to move the club back up the football pyramid.

"Because of other issues and commitments, both personal and professional, I can no longer devote the time, energy and resources to the club that I would like, however, and feel it best if others now take the club forward both financially and in future decision-making."

Phillips said: "I would like to thank Ian publicly for all his work, on behalf of the new Salisbury FC.

"He has also helped me, personally, through his experience of the world of the non-League game and I am very grateful to him for sharing his considerable knowledge in this area.

"I am pleased to say that Ian has made himself available to the board as and when we need him."

## Top decisions

From Andy Murray at Wimbledon to England against Iceland, 2016 has thrown up triumph and disaster in equal measure. Here, the Sports Pink takes a look at the five best and worst sporting decisions of 2016.

### FIVE OF THE BEST

#### 1. Murray reunites with Lendl

Andy Murray's stupendous year actually only began in June. After splitting from previous coach Amelie Mauresmo, Murray entered the grass-court season without a grand slam triumph in three years and as clear second-best in a non-rivalry with Novak Djokovic. Enter Lendl. Whether the Czech's impact was tactical, technical or psychological, Murray won Queen's, Wimbledon, Olympic gold and five ATP titles in a row, including most recently the World Tour Finals, where he ousted Djokovic to finish the year as world number one.



Alistair Brownlee.

Lendl's re-appointment has proven a masterstroke.

#### 2. Brownlee chooses brother over chance for glory

Neither of them won the race but the Brownlee brothers made a permanent nestling place in British hearts after a tear-jerking end to the Triathlon World Series in Mexico. Jonny had led with 700 metres to go but in hot and humid conditions, fatigue suddenly took hold and he began wobbling to the side of the road. Not far behind, Alistair had the chance to overtake but instead went over to his brother, allowing Henri Schoeman to run through and win. Alistair propped Jonny up under his arm and carried him over the line, pushing him over for second place in one of the year's most heart-warming displays of sportsmanship.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK SAINTS

# 2016 - a review of

By Sam  
Waddington

### JANUARY

AFTER a difficult December, Saints' new year did not get off to the best of starts.

Ronald Koeman was angered by Sadio Mane turning up late for a team meeting so left the Senegalese forward on the bench at Norwich.

To add salt to the wounds, Victor Wanyama saw red in the closing stages of a 1-0 loss at a Canaries side who would go on to be relegated.

A week later, when Alan Pardew came back to haunt his former club with Crystal Palace knocking Saints out of the FA Cup at the third round.

But the month improved greatly, with home wins over Watford and West Bromwich Albion followed by a second successive 1-0 victory at Old Trafford.

Saints' only January signing, £4m QPR striker Charlie Austin, headed a late winner after coming off the bench to make his debut.

### FEBRUARY

Despite only returning from a long-term injury the previous month, February was a month to remember for Saints' keeper and England international Fraser Forster.

Although the game against Chelsea at the end of the month ended in defeat, during the 2-1 loss he set the club top-flight record for the longest time - 706 minutes - without conceding a goal.

In that encounter Shane Long also scored his ninth goal of the 2015-16 season to become joint top scorer alongside Graziano Pelle.

The month began as Forster's superb man of the match performance earned Saints a point at Arsenal.

Days later Koeman became the first Saints manager to claim the Premier League manager of the month award three times, as his side won three out of four league games in January.

Saints' excellent run of form ended abruptly as two late goals from Branislav Ivanovic and Cesc Fabregas secured Chelsea a 2-1 victory.

### MARCH

THE month started with a disappointing defeat to south coast rivals Bournemouth, as their 2-0 win gave them their first league win against Saints since 1958.

Saints went onto finish the month unbeaten.

Forster's year only got better as



Sadio Mane completes his hat-trick against Manchester City in May. Right - Ronald Koeman said he would be staying at St Mary's - and then left for Everton.



Fraser Forster and James Ward-Prowse sign new long term deals at Saints. Below - Charlie Austin celebrates his debut winner at Old Trafford.



well, as he picked up the Premier League's February Player of the Month Award.

The hard-fought 2-1 victory at Stoke saw Pelle score his first goals since the beginning of November.

A Europa League adventure the next season looked increasingly likely as Saints remained in the top half after a remarkable come-

back at home to Liverpool.

At half-time Saints looked dead and buried with Daniel Sturridge and Philippe Coutinho putting the Reds in cruise control.

But a Pelle curler and a brace from inspired substitute Mane saw Saints claim a memorable victory.

### APRIL

THIS was the month that Koeman would supposedly pledge his long-term future to the Saints.

He announced after being asked whether he would see out his contract, "Yes, of course. I have one year of my contract (left)."

Of course that promise was broken only two months later.

Saints seemed to be getting stronger as the season went on



# PINK PINK SAINTS

# the Saints year



but had the daunting prospect of playing leaders Leicester City at the King Power straight after the March international break.

A Wes Morgan goal saw the Foxes move a step nearer a sensational title success.

Saints dealt a dismal Newcastle United side a blow in their fight against relegation with three clinical strikes from Pelle, Long

and Wanyama at St Mary's.

Two weeks later Dusan Tadic scored a double in a 4-2 win against Aston Villa to pile more misery on the relegated side.

## MAY

IN the final month of the season, Saints kept their momentum going by winning all three league

games against Manchester City, Tottenham Hotspur and Crystal Palace.

In doing so, they achieved their highest ever premier league finish of sixth place to reach the Europa League qualifying stage.

Sadio Mane's hat-trick against The Citizens ensured he became the top scorer for the campaign with 15 goals in all competitions.

## Good moves

from facing page

### 3. Rosberg calls it quits at the top

Nico Rosberg's shock decision to retire from Formula One, five days after beating Lewis Hamilton to the World Championship was certainly not unanimously popular. Some felt the German, aged only 31, had taken the easy option and deprived fans of the chance to witness a re-run against Hamilton and the continuation of their bitter rivalry. But Rosberg had already proved his quality. He won nine of the season's 21 grand prix, claiming the championship after 206 career races - the second longest wait for a maiden title in the sport's history. F1 is a dangerous and draining sport. Who could deny Rosberg, a father with a young family, going out on a high?

## JUNE

IT was certainly a month to forget for Saints fans, as they were dealt a sickening blow in the first week.

The dreaded news came that Koeman, despite his comments back in April, would be departing to take the reigns at Everton.

Koeman's departure felt more like an act of treachery than disappointment.

Frenchman Claude Puel seemed like a surprise choice to replace him a few weeks later.

Reports were circling that Saints would also be selling Sadio Mane to Liverpool for a fee of £34m.

These proved true by the end of the month, with Saints receiving a club record fee for the attacker.

Only time would tell if the Norwich winger Nathan Redmond, signed on a five-year contract, could be an adequate replacement.

## JULY

SAINTS brought in Danish youngster Pierre-Emile Hojbjerg, for a reported £12m from Bayern Munich.

The midfielder had been left frustrated with a lack of first team opportunities for the 2015-16 German champions.

That was the positive news, but there was another tough pill to swallow when star Italian striker Pelle decided to leave for Shandong Luneng, following in the footsteps of other European club players moving to the Far East.

Then it was the turn of midfield engine Wanyama to leave for Tottenham, re-uniting with former Saints manager Mauricio Pochettino who signed him in 2013.

Shane Long was staying, though, as he committed his long term-future to the club by signing a four-year contract.

On the field, Saints prepared for the new season by winning all their pre-season friendlies in July.

## AUGUST

IN the month that the Premier League kicked off again, Saints had a slow start with two points out of a possible nine.

*Continued on page 12*



Nico Rosberg celebrates

Sure, Eddie Jones was officially appointed head coach in November last year but his first match in charge came in February and his brilliant start as England boss certainly belongs to 2016. Their 37-21 victory over Australia at Twickenham this month equalled the team's record of 14 consecutive Test wins, last achieved between 2002 and 2003 as England then built up to winning the World Cup. Jones has injected a confidence and swagger back into England's players, who 12 months ago were still licking their wounds from a humiliating World Cup exit on home soil. They are a team transformed since.

### 5. Chelsea re-sign and reform Luiz

Few expressed approval when Chelsea forked out £34million to sign David Luiz on the last day of the transfer window.

*Continued on page 12*

**Bad moves***from page 11*

Chelsea had sold Luiz to Paris Saint-Germain only two years previous after deeming him too error-prone and the defender had done little for either Brazil or his new club to suggest he could change. Under new Chelsea boss Antonio Conte, however, and with the additional cover of the Italian's central back three, Luiz has been superb. Chelsea conceded two goals in 10 games between September and December and as rivals appear desperately short of assurance in defence, Luiz could prove the key to the Blues' title challenge.

**FIVE OF THE WORST****1. Hodgson changes six and kills Euro momentum**

Sam Allardyce sitting down with under-cover reporters could certainly have made this list, but on the pitch his predecessor Roy Hodgson

**Roy Hodgson.**

oversaw England losing to Iceland in one of this country's worst ever defeats at a major tournament. England's Euro 2016 campaign arguably turned on Hodgson's decision to make six changes for their final group game against Slovakia, against whom they drew 0-0 and therefore failed to finish to go through as group winners. England had just beaten Wales in thrilling fashion but Hodgson's changes quickly burst their bubble and Iceland completed another miserable exit.

**2. Muhammad loses concentration**

It is hard to remember a more agonising winner of an Olympic silver medal than Britain's Lutalo Muhammad, who spurned the chance to win -80kg taekwondo gold after losing in the very last second to Cheick Sallah Cisse of the Ivory Coast. *Cont on facing page*

**PINK** **PINK** **SAINTS**

# A rollercoaster

By Sam  
**Waddington**

*from page 11*

Nathan Redmond volleyed home a debut goal to rescue a point against Watford.

The following week, on the first Friday night of the season, Saints travelled to Old Trafford for an encounter with Jose Mourinho's new look Manchester United.

And it was a brace from the special one's trusted servant, Zlatan Ibrahimovic, that saw United take the three points.

Jay Rodriguez scored a late leveller, finding the back of the net for the first time in over a year, after Jermain Defoe clinically dispatched a penalty to put Sunderland ahead.

At the end of the month Saints broke their transfer record when Sofiane Boufal arrived for £16m on a five-year deal from Lille.

The highly rated Moroccan attacking midfielder was just the type of player the club needed after losing three of their most influential players in the close season.

**SEPTEMBER**

Saints began to kickstart their season on three fronts, with progress being made in the League, the League Cup and in Europe.

After the September international break, Claude Puel's men played their best football of the season away at Arsenal but left with nothing.

They took the lead but an outstanding acrobatic finish from Laurent Koscielny and a penalty right at the death from Santi Cazorla saw Arsenal claim victory.

Eventually, though, Puel secured a first win of the season when Sparta Prague were welcomed to St Mary's.

The club's Europa League adventure getting off to a flier thanks to two goals in the first half from Charlie Austin before sub Jay Rodriguez scored late on.

That was the sign of things to come for Austin who ended the month on five goals in all competitions.

As well as scoring in league victories over Swansea and West Ham, the ex-Wessex League forward found the net in the League Cup against Crystal Palace.

Saints could feel proud of their September efforts, but off the field the club revealed that assistant manager Eric Black was part of the Daily Telegraph's ongoing investigations into corruption in football.

**OCTOBER**

Jay Rodriguez celebrates scoring his second at Bournemouth with Nathan Redmond.



Mixed emotions as Hapoel celebrate scoring in the Europa League at St Mary's.

THE side carried on their good run of form into this month as a 1-1 draw at the Etihad Stadium meant it was five league games without defeat.

That was after Saints climbed to eighth with a 3-1 triumph at home to promoted Burnley, two goals from Austin against his former employers sending the team on their way.

Four days later 7,000 Saints fans made the trip to Italy to see their club face European giants Inter Milan at the San Siro, albeit without six first team players and Claude Puel continuing to rotate furiously.

Although they more than matched their opponents, they lost 1-0 - surrendering the chance to further their grip at the top of

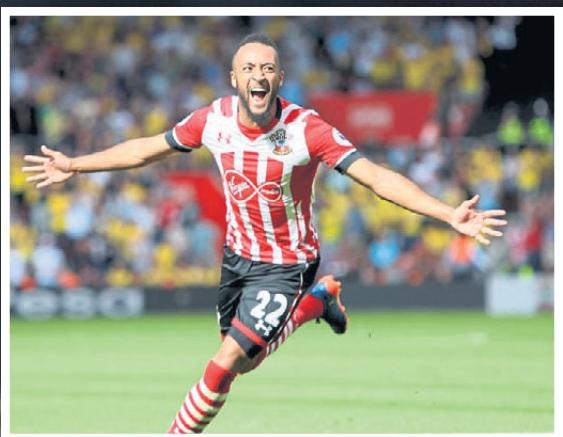
the group.

Up next was a trip to early title favourites Manchester City and Nathan Redmond took the gift that was presented to him, following a breakdown in communication at the back between City's John Stones and Claudio Bravo, to earn his side a precious point.

Sunderland then visited St Mary's to battle it out for a place

# PINK PINK SAINTS

# year for Saints



Nathan Redmond celebrates scoring on his league debut for Saints against Watford in August.

Jordy Clasie (centre below) celebrates scoring in the League Cup win at Arsenal.



in the English Football League (EFL) Cup quarter finals.

In an otherwise uninspiring game, Sofiane Boufal, on his first start, announced himself to supporters with an explosive strike from just inside the box.

But that was the best it was going to get for the rest of October as Saints came back to reality when Antonio Conte's Chelsea

beat them 2-0 convincingly.

## NOVEMBER

IT was a memorable home victory against Inter Milan to start the month, Saints coming back from an early setback even after a missed penalty from Dusan Tadic.

That meant if they won their next group game away to Spar-

ta Prague they would join the Czechs in playing European football in the new year.

But the defeat in that game later in the month meant they would have to wait until the last round of fixtures to try and reach the last 32.

When Saints travelled to Hull the following weekend it was a case of role reversal as two quick-

fire goals in the second half cancelled out Austin's early penalty opener.

A solid defensive display, and Liverpool's failure to convert their chances, saw Saints collect a point against Jurgen Klopp's table-toppers.

It wasn't a happy return to St Mary's for Everton manager Koeman, as youngster Josh Sims, on his first league start, set up Charlie Austin for a first minute winner.

In the final game of the month, at Arsenal, it was Jordy Clasie and Ryan Bertrand that came up with the goods as Saints progressed to the League Cup semi-finals for the first time in almost 30 years.

## DECEMBER

The final month of the year also got off to a poor start, as a trip to Crystal Palace ended in a 3-0 defeat.

Two goals from Christian Benteke and a James Tomkins header gave Palace the victory, with the first being gifted to Benteke following Forster's catastrophic failure to deal with a Jose Fonte back-pass.

There was worse to come as Saints were eliminated from the group stages of the Europa League by Israeli side Hapoel Be'er Sheva.

All Saints needed was a goalless draw or win to send them through, but a late Virgil Van Dijk goal could only give them a 1-1 draw.

To compound the misery, days later it was confirmed that top scorer Charlie Austin was likely to miss the next three or four months after injuring his shoulder in the Be'er Sheva game.

This did strengthen the need for the club to find a back-up striker in the January transfer window.

However, a brace from Jay Rodriguez in the 3-1 victory over Bournemouth saw him prove his worth after being unlucky with injury over the last two years.

It wasn't all smiles for captain Jose Fonte, though as he was left on the bench in Dorset. And with the club refusing to extend the 18 months left on the Portuguese international's contract, he could be on his way out sooner rather than later.

The first post-Christmas contest saw Saints take an early lead against Mauricio Pochettino's Tottenham. But, on a sobering night for Saints fans, Nathan Redmond was sent off as the visitors romped to a 4-1 success.

The 90 minutes showcased the gulf that Saints must attempt to bridge if they are serious about challenging for European football every season.

## Bad moves

### from facing page

Muhammad led 6-5 when the bout was paused, with the clock showing the Briton needed only to survive one second to clinch gold. When play resumed, however, Cisse unleashed a quick kick to Muhammad's face before racing around the arena in delight.

### 3. Conlan launches into a rant

Ireland's Michael Conlan did not hold back after he was unanimously judged to have lost to his Russian opponent Vladimir Nikitin in the bantamweight quarter-finals at the Olympics. Conlan branded the judges "\*\*\*\*\* cheats" and said "amateur boxing stinks from the core right to the top".

### 4. Willett fires up "imbecile" Americans

Drama teacher Peter Willett, and brother of Danny Willett of Europe's Ryder Cup team, may not have predicted the attention



Danny Willett.

his scathing article on the behaviour of American golf fans would receive. Labelling them "a braying mob of imbeciles" and "an angry, unwashed, Make America Great Again swarm", Peter Willett called on Europe to "smash the obnoxious dads, with their shiny teeth, Lego man hair, medicated ex-wives and resentful children". Danny Willett had to apologise for his brother's comments, although later agreed with them after Europe had been soundly beaten.

### 5. Russians' incomplete Olympic ban

The IOC's decision not to impose a blanket ban on Russian competitors at the Olympics, instead referring the choice to individual federations, was impractical, inconsistent and passed up a golden opportunity to send out a resounding message that cheats will not be tolerated.

## Best sporting moments of 2016

### All hail Hal

Wales took Euro 2016 by storm with Gareth Bale the poster boy of their remarkable run to the semi-finals. Yet this was far from a one-man show. Ashley Williams was captain fantastic, Aaron Ramsey sparkled in midfield, Joe Allen became Andrea Pirlo and Hal Robson-Kanu, who did not even have a club at the time, outdid the late, great Johan Cruyff at his own game when his stunning turn sent the entire Belgian nation the wrong way in the quarters. Portugal eventually prevailed but this was the stuff of dreams.

### Vardy's party

Which brings us neatly to Leicester, the 5,000/1-shots turned-Premier League champions. It was actually Eden Hazard's goal for Chelsea, against closest challengers Tottenham, which finally clinched the



Jamie Vardy.

title. An anti-climax? Not a bit of it. Christian Fuchs' video tweet at the final whistle as the Foxes squad realised they had achieved the impossible - crowded round the television at top scorer Jamie Vardy's house - joyously captured the moment better than any breathless, sweaty post-match platitudes ever could.

### Danny joy

Danny Willett may not have even played at the Masters in April had his son, Zachariah, stuck to his schedule. Willett junior was due on April 10 - the date of the final round - but helpfully showed up 11 days early allowing the new dad to go back to work. Rather than spend his weekend pacing up and down a maternity ward corridor, Willett tore up the fairways and greens of Augusta to finish on five under par, beating Jordan Spieth, to land his first Major.

*Continued on facing page*

PINK PINK SAINTS

# Claude's great

By Simon Carter



FAIR play to Claude Puel, and to the Saints squad.

To be seventh in the Premier League at Christmas, and with a League Cup semi final to look forward to early in the New Year, was a great achievement.

Seriously, it was.

It hasn't been an easy start for Puel in his first job in English football.

There have been ups and downs. Well, this is Southampton Football Club, isn't it?

Most seasons are rides aboard an emotional roller coaster; aren't they?

And this is promising to be no exception, just with a few more cup ties and European nights tossed into the equation.

Puel's tactics have come in for criticism. Some have bemoaned his possession-based, safety first style as creating the dullest Saints team in living memory.

Yes, they have a good defence - a great defence, even - but they struggle to score themselves.

But the end results at any football club are easy to measure ... just look at the league table.

And after almost half the season, Saints were seventh in the toughest, richest, professional league on planet earth.

How do they do it, seemingly year after year?

Are there modern-day footballing alchemists at work at Staplewood and St Mary's?

Look at the facts ...

Summer 2014, Saints sell Rickie Lambert, Adam Lallana, Luke Shaw, Dejan Lovren and Calum Chambers. Forced to bring in a new manager after the previous one walked out of them, they STILL improve - rising from eighth to seventh.

Summer 2015, Saints sell Morgan Schneiderlin and Nathaniel Clyne, yet STILL improve again - rising from seventh to sixth. In the process, they finish above defending champions Chelsea and above Liverpool for the first time ever.

Summer 2016, Saints sell Sadio Mane, Victor Wanyama and Graziano Pelle. Forced to bring in another new manager after the previous one (also) walked out on them, they sat down to their Christmas dinners seventh in the table ...

... above Everton, managed by none other than Ronald Koeman. Like Shaw, like Schneiderlin, like Pelle (though the latter probably doesn't mind due to the outrageous salary he is now trousering), Koeman is the latest to find



Saints boss Claude Puel.

out life isn't always greener away from St Mary's ...

... and not only seventh, but in the semi finals of the League Cup to boot.

How do they do it, constantly defying the logic which says you cannot continue to flog your crown jewels and remain highly competitive for the European places?

How?!

Ok, the League Cup is not the FA Cup in terms of glamour:

But it is one of only two domestic cups Southampton Football Club's first team can win in any given season, and history has shown they don't get this far that often.

Saints have only reached five FA Cup semi finals since the

Second World War ended over 70 years ago - in 1963, 1976, 1984, 1986 and 2003.

Since the League Cup came into being in the early 1960s, Saints have only reached the last four twice - in 1979 and 1987.

Two semi finals in over 50 years.

Putting the two cups together, that's seven semi finals in over 120 attempts.

# PINK PINK SAINTS achievement ...



A club the size of Saints should have reached more semis than that, but they haven't.

That's why it's another major feather in Puel's cap that he is now looking forward to a two-legged last four tie against Liverpool for a place at Wembley.

The national stadium, a place Saints have only visited five times in their history.

And one of those was in the Zenith Data Systems Cup final, not a tournament that created lifelong memories.

Another was in the Johnstone's Paint Trophy, a competition only for third and fourth tier clubs. Though the 2010 final was a cracking day out for the supporters, it was in a tournament that only a few years earlier no fan would

ever have thought Saints would appear in.

So, two huge ticks for Claude Puel - seventh in the league at Christmas and 180 minutes from the national stadium, all within his first six months as Saints boss.

I stated in these very pages back in the summer what I believe would be a very good season for

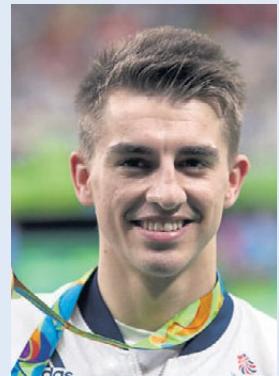
## Best sporting moments of 2016

### Murray's mint

Andy Murray finished the year as world number one, an incredible feat in an era of unprecedented strength in men's tennis. Yet it was his Wimbledon triumphs which will endure and in July he battled to title number two on the fading green lawns of SW19. The Scot may have been aided and abetted by Novak Djokovic's surprise third-round defeat, but Murray's three-set dismantling of Canadian giant Milos Raonic in the final bore all the hallmarks of a man growing quite at home with his position at the very top of his sport.

### Max power

You would have thought making British gymnastic history by winning the country's first Olympic gold medal with victory in the men's floor would have been a satisfactory evening's work for Max Whitlock. But



Max Whitlock

apparently not. The 23-year-old repeated the trick just two hours later with gold in the pommel horse, pipping team-mate Louis Smith into second place. Throw in Murray's gold in the tennis, Justin Rose's golf victory and cyclist Jason Kenny winning the sprint and it was Britain's most successful day at an overseas Games.

### Flaming Mo

Four years had passed, different opponents provided new challenges, but Mo Farah took it all in his stride. Ethiopia's Hagos Gebrhiwet led with 250m to go, but the 33-year-old Farah sprinted away to become only the second athlete to win the 5,000m and 10,000m at two Olympics, an achievement which looked all the more improbable seven days earlier when he tumbled during the 10,000m final, only to end up winning that as well.

*Continued on page 16*

## Best sporting moments of 2016

### Red Rose blooms

A year on from the humiliation of their home World Cup, England capped their remarkable change in fortunes by coming from behind to stun Australia 37-21 at Twickenham and equal the 14-Test winning record of the 2003 squad. The pinnacle of their perfect year under Eddie Jones was a three-Test win over the Aussies in their own backyard.

### Record book for Cook

Only a small crowd were in attendance at Durham but those who were there witnessed a piece of history when Alastair Cook recorded his 10,000th Test run. England's skipper became the first Englishman to reach the landmark and only the 12th man in all. He was also the youngest at 31 years and 157 days, 169 days younger than all-time record run-



Alastair Cook.

getter Sachin Tendulkar.

### Brotherly love

Exhausted Jonny Brownlee was leading the Triathlon World Series in Mexico with 700m left to run, but the searing heat had taken its toll as he began to weave over the road. Third-placed Alistair Brownlee caught his younger brother, propping him up for the final couple of hundred metres before pushing him over the line in second place. South African Henri Schoeman raced on past the pair to win the race.

### Worst sporting moments of 2016

### RIP Ali

The death of Muhammad Ali, in June aged 74, rocked the world in the same way that his ferocious punching and precocious personality also had.

*Continued on page 17*

# PINK SAINTS

# Crucial window

By Simon Carter

from page 15

Expectations are high among the Saints fanbase at times, and no wonder given successive finishes of eighth, seventh and sixth.

These are days or miracle and wonder, and will not - cannot, if truth be known - be fully appreciated. Not for a decade or more.

When Fonte is long gone, when Van Dijk is long gone, when Katharina Liebherr is long gone, and when Claude Puel is long gone, only them - well down the line - can historians look back at Saints circa 2009-2016 and put the club's amazing transformation in its true historical context.

Still, that is for the future.

Puel will only be concerned about the here and now, and so he should be.

The here and now contains not only a two-legged League Cup semi final and the start of his first FA Cup campaign, but the January transfer window.

All transfer windows are fascinating periods for Southampton fans, and this one promises to be no different.

In some ways, it could be one of the most fascinating of all.

There are big question marks over two critical areas, and the end results could have far-reaching ramifications on and off the pitch.

At the back, Virgil Van Dijk has been linked to most of the Premier League's biggest and wealthiest clubs in the last few months.

But the Dutchman's list of potential suitors is believed to stretch beyond these shores.

Even Bayern Munich and Barcelona have been linked to Van Dijk.

### No brainer

Saints have failed to hold onto so many star names in recent years that there cannot be many fans who fervently believe Van Dijk will stay at St Mary's for the next three or four years.

There has been talk, lots of it, that Liverpool - who else? - are preparing a mega-money bid next month.

Certainly Jurgen Klopp needs some new defenders if his free-scoring side are to seriously challenge for the title.

It goes without saying, but say it I will, that Saints cannot sell Van Dijk in January.

It is a no brainer on every possible level.

The negative PR message that would send out would be deafen-



Top scorer Charlie Austin goes down injured during Saints' Europa League draw with Hapoel.



Oriol Romeu shows his frustration as Saints turn in a dismal display to lose at Sparta Prague in the Europa League.



Jose Fonte's Saints future is up in the air after the club failed to offer him a new contract.

ing.

It would be worse than selling Lambert, Lallana, Shaw, Chambers, Schneiderlin, Clyne, Mane, Wanyama, Pelle.

In fairness to Saints, the club have not tended to sell in a January window - apart from Jack Cork who went to Swansea in 2015 in a bid to get regular Premier League football - and almost cer-

tainly that will remain the case next month.

Well, it will remain the case if they have any sense at all.

Beyond that and into next summer, who knows ...?

### Raging

At the other end of the pitch, debate has been raging about

whether Puel will sign a striker to replace the crooked Charlie Austin.

Most fans would admit Saints need to bring one in, but whether they will is a different matter entirely.

Shane Long has yet to score all season for Saints, a remarkable statistic given he enjoyed his best ever Premier League campaign in

# PINK PINK SAINTS now for Puel ...

Virgil van Dijk is Saints' undoubted crown jewel, but Saints have to turn down all enquiries for the centre half in the January transfer window.



2015/16 with 10 goals.

Jay Rodriguez's two goals at Bournemouth a week before Christmas were incredibly well timed, but he is still finding his feet after two and a half injury-ridden years.

They are Puel's only two front-line strikers in the absence of Austin.

Elsewhere, Soufiane Boufal will

miss most of January as he is on African Cup of Nations duty, while Dusan Tadic has only one league goal to his name all season.

#### Nonsense

Internet message boards can be a haven for intelligent discussion between fans, but they can also be a magnet for those posting either

total bile or total nonsense.

I have read both on the Daily Echo's website with regards to how Saints' fans view Puel, his rotation, and his squad.

Fans are not always right, and the ones who have called for his head after Saints' most disappointing results and performances of the season so far are scandalous.

He is not 'out of his depth' as I have read. He is not Jan Poortvliet, not by a long way. He has taken a club to the semi finals of the Champions League.

Yes, his tactics are different to his predecessors and it is undoubtedly true that the entertainment levels have dipped while watching Saints under Puel.

Yet what do supporters want? One told me recently 'I go and watch Saints hoping they will win. If I want entertainment, I'd go to the Mayflower Theatre'.

A fair point, certainly.

For all his public support of his current squad, I hope Puel brings in a striker in the January transfer window - even if it's one on loan with a view to a permanent signing.

If Saints are serious about continuing to challenge for the European places - either through a cup run or league finish - they need to inject more goals into their squad.

That is a no brainer, almost as big a one as not selling Virgil Van Dijk in the January transfer window.

If they are serious about wanting to keep the likes of Van Dijk at St Mary's, Saints must continue to be highly competitive.

They just have to. Failure to do so is not an option.

They must start to win silverware, and bring more European nights back to St Mary's.

They certainly have a chance with the former in the League Cup.

#### Low point

And, if successful, then European nights will be returning to the south coast.

Memo to Claude Puel, though - if they do, please make sure you treat them with the respect they deserve.

The manager's Europa League selections provided the low point of his first few months in English football.

Had he treated the tournament differently, and Saints had qualified from a group they should have progressed from, then we would be looking at a very successful first half of 2016/17 for Southampton Football Club.

There is still so much to play for at Saints as we head into the second half of the campaign.

That is great news indeed.

But the club should have even more to play for, abroad as well as domestically. If the club are serious about continuing to progress, they can't afford to pass up glorious opportunities when they present themselves.

The Europa League was one such opportunity.

Fingers crossed Saints can take the next one ...

#### Bad sporting moments of 2016

##### *from facing page*

The news that the former heavyweight champion and political activist was no longer among us triggered a worldwide outpouring of affection and admiration for one of the best-known figures of the 20th century. George Foreman, the fierce rival in the ring who became his close friend outside it, admitted simply: "He was the greatest human being I ever met."

##### Ben hurt

England were on the verge of world T20 final victory over West Indies when Ben Stokes stepped up to bowl the final over to Carlos Brathwaite, whose side needed an unlikely 19 to win. Three decent yorkers would have seen England victorious. Instead four juicy half-volleys disappeared into the stands. Stokes' first ball was hammered behind deep backward square and



Ben Stokes.

the second over long-on. Brathwaite made it three sixes in a row with another huge swing over long-off, and completed a dramatic victory with a fourth consecutive maximum into a delirious crowd to leave England crestfallen and Stokes inconsolable.

##### Ryder flop

The pre-Hazeltine hype may have rivalled the US presidential race but the event itself was more like a Jeremy Corbyn house party. Willett's brother Pete lived up proceedings when he called the American supporters "fat and stupid", and a few proved him right. But Masters champ Willett wilted by failing to register a single point and his teammates fared little better. The USA ambled into a 4-0 lead after the first morning's foursomes, and a 17-11 defeat provided a post-Brexit blow to an all-round bad year for Europe. *Cont on page 18*

## Bad sporting moments of 2016

From page 17

### Dire and ice

Roy Hodgson's England arrived in France for Euro 2016 with expectations somewhere approaching rock bottom, and yet still managed to fall way below them. Harry Kane took corners, Wayne Rooney became a midfielder, Joe Hart forgot how to catch and Jack Wilshere carried a cuddly lion around. Oh, how we rejoiced when the usual stagger through the group stage was rewarded by a meeting with minnows Iceland.

The soul-destroying defeat that followed set a new low for English football.

### Stuff of memes

As the final whistle of Italy's Euro 2016 quarter-final against Germany approached Simone Zaza was brought on, specifically to take a penalty in the upcoming shoot-out.



Iceland beat England

The then-Juventus striker stepped up to the mark and launched a thousand memes with his bizarre effort.

He trotted up to the ball like a dressage horse in a bid to distract keeper Manuel Neuer, only to blaze his kick high and wide.

Now at West Ham, Zaza has thus far not been asked to take a penalty.

### Loch mess

Ryan Lochte took his Olympic medal haul to 12 after helping capture the men's 4x200 metres freestyle gold, but his achievement was overshadowed by his antics at a petrol station. The American swimmer was banned for 10 months for falsely claiming he and three team-mates were robbed at gunpoint.

Lochte also lost a number of endorsement deals, but he did land a slot on TV show Dancing With The Stars for his troubles.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# 50 quiz questions

1) How many gold medals did Team GB win as they finished second in the medals table at the 2016 Rio Olympic Games - 25, 26 or 27?

2) Whom did British tennis player Andy Murray beat to claim the Wimbledon singles title en route to ending 2016 as world number one?

3) Name the winners of the four English football divisions in the 2015/2016 season.

4) Who were the 2016 winners of the LV= County Championship Division One and Two titles?

5) Name the side which won the 2016 Ladbrokes Challenge Cup Challenge Cup following a dramatic 12-10 victory over Warrington at Wembley in August.

6) British cyclist Chris Froome successfully defended his Tour de France title in 2016, but which home-grown rider finished as runner-up in Paris?

7) Which England international ended as the top goalscorer for the 2015/2016 Premier League campaign?

8) Name the 33-1 winner of the 2016 Crabbie's Grand National.

9) At which two distances did British runner Mo Farah win double Olympic gold again in Rio?

10) Where was the 2016 Ryder Cup held?

11) Which country knocked England out of Euro 2016?

12) How many Grand Prix victories did Nico Rosberg claim as he beat Britain's Lewis Hamilton on the way to becoming Formula One world champion for the first time - eight, nine or 10?

13) Who won heptathlon gold ahead of Britain's Jessica Ennis-Hill at the Rio Olympics?

14) Which team ended a wait of 106 years with their victory over Cleveland Indians in the 2016 Major League Baseball World Series?

15) Name the National Hockey League franchise which won the 2016 Stanley Cup.

16) Led by LeBron James, Cleveland Cavaliers defeated which team to win the National Basketball Association Finals in June?

17) Who finished second behind Usain Bolt in the final of the 100m at the Rio Olympics?

18) Paralympics GB won a total

of how many medals, including 64 golds, to finish second behind China on the medals table in Rio?

19) Wales were eliminated from the semi-finals of Euro 2016 by which nation?

20) At which events did cyclist Jason Kenny claim gold at the 2016 Olympics?

21) Who scored for Northern Ireland in their 2-0 win over Ukraine which helped them reach the knockout stages of Euro 2016?

22) Which Spanish rivals contested the 2016 UEFA Champions League final in Milan?

23) Name the winners of the 2016 FA Women's Super League title.

24) England were beaten by which team in the final of the 2016 ICC World Twenty20 in India?

25) Name the winners of the ATP Grand Slam titles in 2015.

26) Which European golfer



27) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

28) Name the 2016 US Open tennis champion.

29) Who won the 2016 Commonwealth Games men's 100m?

30) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

31) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

32) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

33) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

34) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

35) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

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45) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

46) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

47) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

48) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

49) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

50) Who won the 2016 Davis Cup?

PINK PINK

# from sporting year



Andy Murray wins Wimbledon in 2016, but who did he beat in the final?

scored the most points in their 17-11 Ryder Cup defeat to the United States?

27) Which European golfer won the 2016 Open at Royal Troon?

28) Name the winners of the other three golf Majors this year.

29) Which Thai golfer won the

2016 Women's British Open at Woburn?

30) Who scored the extra-time goal which won Portugal the Euro 2016 final against hosts France?

31) Name the British boxer who decided to vacate his WBA, WBO and IBO heavyweight world titles following a difficult end to 2016.

32) In February, which team defeated Carolina Panthers to win Superbowl 50 at Levi's Stadium?

33) Which Pacific Islands nation beat Great Britain to win an historic gold in the Rugby Sevens at the 2016 Rio Olympics?

34) British swimmer Adam

Peaty set a world record time as he delivered gold from which event in Rio?

35) Name the team defeated by Saracens in the 2016 Aviva Premiership final.

36) Which side finished runners-up to Celtic in the 2015/2016 Scottish Premiership campaign?

37) Name the winners of the 2016 NatWest T20 Blast.

38) Which teams finished top and bottom of the RBS 6 Nations table?

39) List the winners of the WTA Grand Slams tournaments in 2016.

40) Who won the 2016 Betfred World Snooker Championship at Sheffield's Crucible Theatre?

41) Name the British divers who won Olympic gold in the Synchronized 3m Springboard.

42) Name the 2016 world rally champion.

43) Which team did Hull beat to win the 2016 Sky Bet Championship play-off final at Wembley to clinch promotion back to the Premier League?

44) Name the French sides who contested the 2015 European Rugby Champions Cup final at Twickenham.

45) Who scored the decisive penalty goal against the Netherlands as Team GB won a dramatic shoot-out to secure women's Olympic Hockey gold in Rio?

46) Name the British teenager whose world record time earned Paralympic gold in the S6 50m butterfly.

47) In early January, who defeated Adrian Lewis to successfully defend his William Hill PDC World Darts Championship at Alexandra Palace?

48) Veteran Nick Skelton partnered which horse to an emotional equestrian gold medal in the individual jumping event in Rio?

49) Which British sprinter successfully defended his T43/T44 title at the 2016 Paralympics?

50) Manchester United beat which side to win the 2016 FA Cup final at Wembley, in what proved to be the last game for manager Louis van Gaal?

## Bad sporting moments of 2016

*from facing page*

### Tyson trouble

Tyson Fury did not step into the ring in 2016 but the controversial boxer was still making headlines. Fury voluntarily vacated his WBO and WBA world titles to fully focus on his medical treatment and recovery, having withdrawn from a rematch with Wladimir Klitschko for the second time after being declared "medically unfit". He courted more controversy a fortnight later after it was reported he had tested positive for cocaine. Fury is also the subject of a UK Anti-Doping investigation.

### Year of scandal

The FIFA corruption saga rumbled on into the new year; Russia's state-sponsored doping cast a huge shadow over the build-up to the Rio Olympics and was



Tyson Fury

subsequently found to have involved dozens of medallists from London 2012. British cycling lurched from crisis to crisis and football was left reeling after allegations of historical child sex abuse in the game. It was an utterly depressing and troubling year away from the field of play.

### Brazil mourns

The words 'disaster' and 'tragedy' are bandied about far too much in sport but when they actually strike everything else is put sharply into perspective. Brazilian football team Chapecoense were flying to play in the Copa Sudamericana final in Medellin, Colombia, when their plane crashed. Nineteen players died among the 71 people killed. Brazil, and the footballing world, mourned. At the request of their opponents, Atletico Nacional, the grieving club were awarded the trophy in posthumous homage to the victims.



# ENDAR 2017 SPORTS CALENDAR 2017

## ONS IN NEW ZEALAND



Jun 20	Hamilton	Chiefs v Lions
Jun 24	Auckland	<b>First Test, New Zealand v Lions</b>
Jun 27	Wellington	Hurricanes v Lions
Jul 1	Wellington	<b>Second Test, New Zealand v Lions</b>
Jul 8	Auckland	<b>Third Test, New Zealand v Lions</b>

## CYCLING

4-11 France: Critérium du Dauphiné

## CRICKET

1-18 England and Wales: ICC Champions Trophy  
21 Southampton: First T20, England v South Africa  
23 Taunton: Second T20, England v South Africa  
25 Cardiff: Third T20, England v South Africa  
26-Jul 23 England: ICC Women's World Cup

## FOOTBALL

1 Cardiff: Women's Champions League final  
3 Cardiff: Champions League final  
10 Azerbaijan v N Ireland, Scotland v England  
11 Republic of Ireland v Austria, Serbia v Wales  
13 Paris: France v England  
16-30 Poland: UEFA Under-21 Championships

## GOLF

22-25 Munich: BMW International Open  
29-Jul 2 Paris: French Open

## RACING

2 Epsom: The Oaks  
3 Epsom: The Derby  
20-24 Royal Ascot

## ROWING

16-18 Poznan: World Cup 2  
28-Jul 2 Henley Regatta

## RUGBY LEAGUE

17-18 Challenge Cup quarter-finals

## RUGBY UNION

3-July 8 British & Irish Lions Tour (see panel)

## MOTOR CYCLING

4 Mugello: Italian MotoGP  
11 Barcelona: Catalan MotoGP  
17-18 Le Mans 24 Hours  
25 Assen: Dutch MotoGP

## MOTOR RACING

11 Montreal: Canadian Grand Prix  
25 Baku: Azerbaijan Grand Prix

## TENNIS

12-18 Nottingham: Aegon Open  
19-25 Queen's: Aegon Championships  
19-25 Birmingham: Aegon Classic  
25-Jul 1 Eastbourne: Aegon International

## TRIATHLON

10 Leeds: ITU Triathlon Series

## JULY

### ATHLETICS

1 Paris: Diamond League  
6 Lausanne: Diamond League  
9 London: Diamond League/ Anniversary Games  
14-23 London: World Para-Athletics Championships  
16 Rabat: Diamond League  
21 Monaco: Diamond League

## CRICKET

1 Lord's: One-Day Cup final  
6-10 Lord's: First Test, England v South Africa  
7-Aug 6 T20 Blast group matches  
14-18 Trent Bridge: Second Test, England v South Africa  
27-31 The Oval: Third Test, England v South Africa

## CYCLING

1-23 Tour de France  
29-30 London: RideLondon Clasique

## DARTS

22-30 Blackpool: World Matchplay

## FOOTBALL

16-Aug 6 Netherlands: Women's European Championships

## GOLF

6-9 Londonderry: Irish Open

20-23 Royal Birkdale: The Open

## RACING

8 Sandown: Coral-Eclipse  
8 Haydock: Lancashire Oaks

13 Newmarket: July Meeting

15 York: John Smith's Cup

29 Ascot: King George VI & Queen Elizabeth Stakes

## RUGBY LEAGUE

29-30 Challenge Cup semi-finals

## MODERN PENTATHLON

17-24 Minsk: European Championships

## MOTOR CYCLING

16 Chemnitz: German MotoGP

## MOTOR RACING

9 Spielberg: Austrian Grand Prix

16 Silverstone: British Grand Prix

28-30 Finnish Rally  
30 Budapest: Hungarian Grand Prix

## SAILING

29-Aug 5 Isle of Wight: Cowes Week

## SPEEDWAY

22 Cardiff: Grand Prix

## SWIMMING

14-30 Budapest: World Championships

## TENNIS

3-16 Wimbledon

## AUGUST

### ATHLETICS

4-13 London: World Championships

20 Birmingham: Diamond League

24 Zurich: Diamond League

### BADMINTON

21-27 Glasgow: World Championships

### BOXING

25-Sep 3 Hamburg: AIBA World Championships

### CRICKET

1-3 Tour match, Chelmsford: Essex v West Indies

4-8 Old Trafford: Fourth Test, England v South Africa

6-8 Tour match, Canterbury: Kent v West Indies

9-12 Aberdeen: ICC Intercontinental Cup, Scotland v UAE

11-13 Tour match, Derby: Derbyshire v West Indies

17-21 Edgbaston: First Test, England v West Indies

22-25 T20 Blast quarter-finals

25-29 Headingly: Second Test, England v West Indies

### CYCLING

19-Sep 10 Vuelta a Espana

### FOOTBALL

5 Start of Football League season (TBC)

5 Start of Scottish Premiership season (TBC)

6 Wembley: Community Shield

12 Start of Premier League season (TBC)

### GOLF

3-6 Ohio: WGC-Bridgestone Invitational



WORLD ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS  
London, August 4-13

## JUDO

28-Sep 3 Budapest: World Championships

## RACING

1-5 Glorious Goodwood

23-26 York: Ebor festival

## RUGBY LEAGUE

3 Start of Super League Super 8s

26 Wembley: Challenge Cup final

## RUGBY UNION

9-26 Women's Rugby World Cup

## SPEEDWAY

12 Malilla, Sweden: Grand Prix

26 Gorzow, Poland: Grand Prix

## MODERN PENTATHLON

21-28 Cairo: World Championships

## MOTOR CYCLING

6 Brno: Czech MotoGP

13 Spielberg: Austrian MotoGP

27 Silverstone: British MotoGP

## MOTOR RACING

18-20 German Rally

27 Spa-Francorchamps: Belgian Grand Prix

## TENNIS

7-13 Toronto/Montreal: Rogers Cup

14-20 Cincinnati: Western & Southern Open

28-Sep 10 New York: US Open

## SEPTEMBER

### ATHLETICS

1 Brussels: Diamond League

10 Newcastle: Great North Run

### BASKETBALL

17 EuroBasket final

### CRICKET

2 Edgbaston: T20 Blast finals day

3-4 Tour match, Leicester: Leicestershire v West Indies

7-11 Lord's: Third Test, England v West Indies

16 Chester-le-Street: T20, England v West Indies

19 Old Trafford: First ODI, England v West Indies

21 Trent Bridge: Second ODI, England v West Indies

24 Bristol: Third ODI, England v West Indies

27 The Oval: Fourth ODI, England v West Indies

29 Southampton: Fifth ODI, England v West Indies

### CYCLING

3-10 Tour of Britain

17-24 Bergen: World Road Championships

### FOOTBALL

1 Malta v England, Lithuania v Scotland, San Marino v Northern Ireland

2 Wales v Austria, Georgia v Republic of Ireland

4 England v Slovakia, Scotland v Malta, Northern Ireland v Czech Republic

5 Moldova v Wales, Republic of Ireland v Serbia

8 Lithuania v England

### GOLF

14-17 Illinois: The BMW Championship

28-Oct 1 New Jersey: Presidents Cup

28-Oct 1 Close House: British Masters

## MOTOR CYCLING

10 Rimini: San Marino MotoGP

24 Aragon MotoGP

## MOTOR RACING

3 Monza: Italian Grand Prix

17 Marina Bay: Singapore Grand Prix

## RACING

9 Haydock: Sprint Cup

16 Doncaster: St Leger

23 Ayr Gold Cup

23 Newbury: Mill Reef Stakes

30 Newmarket: Cambridgeshire

## ROWING

14-Oct 1 Florida: World Championships

## RUGBY LEAGUE

30 Super League semi-finals and Million Pound Game

## TENNIS

15-17 Davis Cup World Group semi-finals

24-Oct 1 Wuhan Open

30-Oct 8 Beijing: China Open

## OCTOBER

### DARTS

1-7 Dublin: World Grand Prix

### FOOTBALL

5 England v Slovenia, Scotland v Slovakia, Northern Ireland v Germany

6 Georgia v Wales, Republic of Ireland v Moldova

8 Lithuania v England, Slovenia v Scotland, Norway v Northern Ireland

9 Wales v Republic of Ireland

### GOLF

5-8 Scotland: Alfred Dunhill Links Championship

### MOTOR CYCLING

15 Motegei: Japan MotoGP

22 Phillip Island: Australia MotoGP

29 Sepang: Malaysia MotoGP

### MOTOR RACING

1 Sepang: Mayaysia Grand Prix

6-8 Spanish Rally

8 Suzuka: Japanese Grand Prix

22 Austin: United States Grand Prix

27-29 British Rally

29 Mexico City: Mexican Grand Prix

### RACING

1 Longchamp: Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe

13 Newmarket: Future Champions Festival

21 Newmarket: British Champions Day

### RUGBY LEAGUE

7 Manchester: Super League Grand Final

27-Dec 2 World Cup

### TENNIS

9-15 Shanghai Masters

22-29 Singapore: WTA finals

30-Nov 5 Paris: BNP Paribas Masters

### NOVEMBER

### CRICKET

23-27 Brisbane: 1st Test, Australia v England

### FOOTBALL

3-5 FA Cup first round

### GOLF

2-5 Antalya: Turkish Airlines Open

9-12 Sun City: Nedbank Golf Challenge

16-19 Dubai: World Tour Championship

### MOTOR CYCLING

12 Valencia MotoGP

### MOTOR RACING

12 Sao Paolo: Brazilian Grand Prix (TBC)

17-19 Australian Rally

26 Abu Dhabi: UAE Grand Prix

### RACING

7 Melbourne Cup

17 Cheltenham: The Open meeting

25 Ascot Hurdle

25 Haydock: Betfair Chase

### TENNIS

11-12 Fed Cup final

12-19 London: ATP World Tour finals

24-26 Davis Cup final

### DECEMBER

### CRICKET

2-6 Adelaide: 2nd Test, Australia v England (D/N)

14-18 Perth: 3rd Test, Australia v England

26-30 Melbourne: 4th Test, Australia v England

### FOOTBALL

1 Moscow: World Cup draw

## Sports year in numbers

The Sporting Pink assesses the key moments in the sporting year in 20 key numbers.

**128,000**

Tweets per minute sent during England's defeat to Iceland at Euro 2016, Twitter's busiest sporting event of the year.

**10,000**

Only 11 batsmen in Test history had scored this many runs before England captain Alastair Cook joined the elite club in May.

**5000**

Leicester's Premier League triumph in May saw them deliver on a bet that was priced up at 5000/1 by some bookmakers at the start of the season.

**214**

Total medals won by Team GB at the Olympics (67) and Paralympics GB (147) in Rio. Both teams improved on



Sam Allardyce.

their London 2012 tally.

**111**

Years it has taken Ireland's rugby union team to secure a first competitive win over New Zealand, achieved in Chicago on November 5.

**90**

Minutes between the two gold medals won by gymnast Max Whitlock at the Olympics.

**68**

Robbie Keane's goals tally for the Republic of Ireland upon retirement.

**67**

Days Sam Allardyce was England manager, taking charge of just one match.

**29**

At 29 years and 174 days Andy Murray became the oldest tennis player to become a first-time number one.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# The sporting

"There you go, I'm the greatest."

*Succinctly summing his achievements, Usain Bolt describes the status he has now acquired after completing the treble of 100metres, 200, and 4x100m Olympic gold for an unprecedented third time.*

"I've had some great moments here, but also some tough losses. The win feels extra special because of the tough losses."

*Andy Murray, who went on to end the year as a double Olympic champion and world number one, reflects on his second Wimbledon success.*

"I had to play at my best to get it over the finish line. I lost a dear friend on Wednesday morning in the United States from cancer and I feel like he has been with me all week, Mike this one is for you."

*An emotional Henrik Stenson savours victory after beating Phil Mickelson in a thrilling duel to win the Open at Royal Troon.*

"Probably events like track and field, swimming, diving - the stuff that matters."

*Rory McIlroy, who had opted not to compete, shows his apathy towards the Olympic golf tournament when asked which events at Rio 2016 he was planning to watch.*

"I can't think of anything that surpasses it in sporting history. It is difficult to put over in words. I got emotional. It was hard to breathe."

*Former England striker Gary Lineker, who famously fulfilled a promise to present Match of the Day in his underpants, is choked after his beloved Leicester pull off a remarkable Premier League title success.*

"I show you the cup and I don't discuss it with my friends of the media, who already sacked me for six months. Which manager can do what I have done?"

*Manchester United manager Louis van Gaal stands firm when asked about his future in the immediate aftermath of winning the FA Cup, but the end was nigh and he was soon replaced by Jose Mourinho.*

"It shows I didn't just fluke it in London. To do it again is incredible. I can't believe it."

*Mo Farah joins the true greats of athletics as he completes a second successive 10,000m and 5,000m Olympic double in Rio.*

"It's been crazy. You can't really describe the emotions and feelings. We all try to play good golf and someone has to win. Fortunately today it was my day."

*Yorkshireman Danny Willett reflects on his surprise success at*

Usain Bolt, main picture, and Mo Farah, below - two men who underlined their status as Olympic athletics legends in 2016.



the US Masters after a final-day collapse by Jordan Spieth.

"I was disappointed in what he wrote and it put a bit of a downer on my first Ryder Cup for the last couple of days. Obviously it's been tarnished slightly."

*Masters champion Willett admits his frustration after his Ryder Cup debut was soured by*

controversy surrounding an article written by his brother Pete which referred to American fans as a "braying mob of imbeciles", among other insults.

"You dream about nights like this and you're not sure whether you'll be good or lucky enough to be involved with an experience like that. It's extremely pleasing

and we're enjoying every minute of it."

*Manager Chris Coleman celebrates after Wales reach the semi-finals of Euro 2016 with a stunning victory over Belgium.*

"I'm extremely disappointed, of course, about tonight's result and ultimately our exit from the competition. We haven't progressed



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# quotes of 2016



Chris Froome celebrates as he collects the yellow jersey for winning the 2016 Tour De France .



Manchester United's Paul Pogba became the world's most expensive player in 2016.

as far as I thought we were capable of, and that's obviously not acceptable."

*After a result some pundits described as the worst in the country's history, England manager Roy Hodgson calmly steps down after an embarrassing exit from Euro 2016 at the hands of Iceland.*

"I recognise I made some comments which have caused embarrassment."

*Sam Allardyce's England reign proves short as he accepts the consequences after being covertly filmed making controversial comments during a newspaper investigation.*

"It's like the first time, it's amaz-

ing. Every time it's special. It's an absolutely amazing feeling. It feels like a privilege to be in this position."

*Chris Froome enjoys his third Tour de France victory.*

"If he keeps his focus, manages the years in between and stays injury-free, he could go on for two, three more Olympic Games.

He could be Britain's Michael Phelps."

*Sir Chris Hoy expects to be surpassed after Jason Kenny equalled his haul of six Olympic gold medals by winning three in Rio.*

"I've completely outdone myself."

*Max Whitlock is taken aback by his own success after winning two Olympic gold medals in one day with victory in the men's floor and pommel horse in Rio.*

"It's certainly driven me personally. To score 10,000 runs was one of those goals."

*England captain Alastair Cook acknowledges a career landmark after being the youngest player, the 12th overall and the first Englishman to reach 10,000 Test runs.*

"I've got to take my hat off to Alex Hales. He played the world's worst one-day innings by an opener at Lord's three days ago, but he came out and played an incredible knock." *Former England player Graeme Swann gives credit where it is due, hailing Alex Hales after a superb 171 helps the country to a world-record 444 for three in their one-day international against Pakistan at Trent Bridge.*

"I've been racing him forever and he's always just managed to edge me out and get the title - even when we were small in go-karts. He's just an amazing driver and of course one of the best in history, so it's unbelievably special to beat him."

*Showing sentiments that were not necessarily reciprocated, new Formula One world champion Nico Rosberg pays tribute to team-mate and rival Lewis Hamilton after pipping him to the world title.*

"I have climbed my mountain, I am on the peak, so this feels right."

*Just days after his world title success, Rosberg stuns F1 by announcing his retirement.*

"The world-record player is always a question that will be open until somebody breaks the record. I just want Paul to forget that and to play his football."

*New United boss Mourinho tries to play down the hype surrounding Paul Pogba after his world record £89million move back to Old Trafford.*

"The great thing is the best is ahead of us. We're only going to get better."

*Having turned the team around following an abject World Cup campaign, England coach Eddie Jones hails his side after winning the country's first grand slam for*

## Sports year in numbers

24

Teams at Euro 2016 after expansion, including debuts at the tournament for Wales, Northern Ireland, Iceland, Albania and Slovakia.

20

Years between British victories at the Masters, Nick Faldo in 1996 and Danny Willett in 2016.

18

Bouts undefeated for IBF heavyweight champion Anthony Joshua.

17

Points scored by the States at the Ryder Cup, to Europe's 11. The USA's biggest win since 1981.

14

Test wins in a row by England's rugby union side, including 13 under Eddie Jones in 2016.

10



Jonny Bairstow.

Olympic golds owned by the married cyclists Jason and Laura Kenny after the pair added five titles between them in Brazil.

5

Days between Nico Rosberg's first Formula 1 drivers' championship and his retirement at the age of 31.

3

Tour de France victories for Chris Froome - 2013, 2015 and 2016.

2

All-time records claimed by Jonny Bairstow this year, for most Test runs by a wicketkeeper in a year and most dismissals in a year.

0

UK Sport funding for badminton, archery, fencing, weightlifting and wheelchair rugby in the build-up to the 2020 Games in Tokyo.

## Those we lost in 2016 ...

### MUHAMMAD ALI

The three-time world heavyweight champion known simply as 'The Greatest', who had fought Parkinson's disease for 32 years, died in June aged 74.

### CHRIS AMON

The Kiwi spent 13 years in Formula One across the 1960s and 1970s and was widely regarded as one of the best drivers in the sport never to win a grand prix. His death at the age of 73 in August followed a battle with cancer.

### DALIAN ATKINSON

The former Aston Villa and Sheffield Wednesday striker died in August after being Tasered by police. He was 48.

### ALASTAIR BROWNLEE

The popular football commentator, known as 'Voice of the Boro', covered Middlesbrough's games for over 30 years. His death in February at the age of 56 came after he was diagnosed



Muhammad Ali.

with bowel cancer earlier in the season.

### CARLOS ALBERTO

The former Brazil captain scored one of the most memorable goals in the history of the World Cup in 1970 to wrap up a 4-1 win over Italy in the final in Mexico City. He died at the age of 72 in October.

### CHAPECOENSE

A plane carrying the Brazilian football team Chapecoense, along with club officials and journalists, crashed in Colombia in November, killing 71 people including 19 players.

### MEL CHARLES

Charles, the younger brother of Juventus and Leeds great John Charles, played alongside him for Wales at the 1958 World Cup. He died in September aged 81.

*Continued on facing page*

# PINK

# Ten sporting

By Simon Carter



TEN sporting lessons we learned in 2016 ...

### Fairy tales still exist in football

Leicester's magic carpet ride to the 2016 Premier League title defied all the odds, experts and even the most hardened Foxes fans' wildest dreams. The Premier League had no answers to Jamie Vardy's goals, Riyad Mahrez's searing pace and the rough house defending of Wes Morgan and Robert Huth. Tinkerman Claudio Ranieri can now retire happy any time he wants, but opted instead to carry Leicester's story forward. The Foxes hit a seriously rough patch at the start of the new campaign in the league however, despite capitalising on a kind Champions League draw to progress from the group stage. Vardy might have ended his 10-game barren run with a hat-trick in the 4-2 demolition of Manchester City, but any chances of a credible title defence are already long gone.

### Big characters still reign supreme in F1

Lewis Hamilton can polarise fan opinion all he wants, but the British star's colourful lifestyle and F1 paddock antics remain serious box-office for the sport. The reaction to him Snapchatting his way through one press conference in the season just past proved that whatever happens on the track, the men in the cockpits can still create bigger headlines off the grid. Nico Rosberg's immediate retirement after claiming his maiden F1 title robs the sport of Hamilton's revenge next season. But F1 bosses and fair weather fans alike will hope Max Verstappen's emergence as a live-wire risk-taker, as well as natural-born racer, can fill that void.

### Eddie Jones can drive England to glory

England swept all before them in 2016, claiming 13 wins from 13 matches for their first perfect year since 1992. New coach Jones has turned England upside down from the also-rans that became the laughing stock of World Cup 2015. Former Australia and Japan boss Jones has England performing and believing - but will not let his side get carried away. England, he insists, have no world-class players, as he feels none of his players would start in a world XV. Billy Vunipola for one would



Lewis Hamilton celebrates his victory with the crowd after winning the 2016 British Grand Prix .

### Andy Murray on top of the world on merit

Injury and personal issues dogged a niggly 2016 for Novak Djokovic, but the Serb's problems must not detract from Murray's superlative achievement in ending the year as world number one. A second Wimbledon title and

back-to-back Olympic gold medals would have surely been enough booty in one year in themselves. But in displacing Djokovic then defending top spot at the World Tour Finals in London, Murray assured an unforgettable season. Yes Djokovic will hit back, but there is now no reason why Murray cannot hold his ground at the top of the game.

PINK PINK

# lessons of 2016



Keaton Jennings celebrates a century on Test debut against India.



Under Eddie Jones, the English rugby team, right, won every match they played in 2016.

## Mo Farah is Britain's greatest track athlete

Farah became just the second man in history to retain the 5,000m and 10,000m Olympic titles at Rio 2016. To his twin haul at London 2012 he added a hard-fought double in Brazil. Farah's feat comes into even sharper fo-

cus in the midst of a fall in the 10,000m that almost cost him his shot at glory. Cheap metaphors on strength in adversity aside, he has demolished his foes like no other Briton in track history.

## Usain Bolt's triple treble will never be repeated

If Farah is Britain's greatest on

the track, Jamaican sprint superstar Bolt is the finest athlete of all time.

His stunning longevity to complete the sprint treble at three successive Olympic games is unlikely ever to be equalled. Where sheer blistering speed often deadens after a decade, Bolt has defied logic to dominate for 12 years.

## Football must adopt an open-house policy

From the sting that cost Sam Allardyce the England job to horrendous child abuse allegations, football has again shown its murkier side this year.

There is only one way for the sport's governors and bosses to treat any such scandal or wrongdoing - investigate voraciously without fear or favour and then, at the appropriate time, publish the findings in full.

## Mourinho needs rehabilitation

Mourinho's second stint at Chelsea unravelled because he lost the trust of several key players, following his public dressing-down of Dr Eva Carneiro.

The bullish Portuguese left Stamford Bridge chastened, but has jumped immediately back into his battling ways at Old Trafford.

From calling out the likes of Luke Shaw in public over fitness and form, to admitting he has endured family struggles on leaving London, Mourinho has cut a frustrated and at times miserable figure this term. United's results might be on the rise, but Mourinho's mood most probably needs to lift too.

## Southgate must learn from Hodgson's reign

At no point did Roy Hodgson seem to appreciate the depths of his failure at Euro 2016 after England failed to reach the knockout stages thanks to ignominious defeat Iceland. England's players looked muddled and confused at Euro 2016.

Only the manager can be held responsible. Southgate must marry simplicity with effectiveness to succeed.

## County form must still resonate

England tried 11 opening partners for captain Alastair Cook before Haseeb Hameed and Keaton Jennings both flourished in India.

The emergence of two seriously credible top-order options only serves to indicate that England must continue to respect the importance of county form on Test potential. Jennings' century on Test debut in India in December came off the back of racking up 1,548 runs at an average of 64.5 for Durham.

While England have become increasingly progressive in selection, Hameed and Jennings have shown once more how domestic form must be rewarded.

## Those we lost in 2016 ...

### TONY COZIER

The commentator, who covered the West Indies and was a familiar voice to cricket audiences the world over, died in his native Barbados in May at the age of 75.

### MARTIN CROWE

Crowe was described by New Zealand Cricket as the "country's greatest batsman" when news emerged in March of his death at the age of 53. The former Black Caps skipper had been diagnosed with lymphoma for a second time in 2014.

### JOHAN CRUYFF

The Dutch football great, who played for and managed both Ajax and Barcelona, died in March aged 68 following a battle with lung cancer.

### ANTHONY FOLEY

Munster head coach Foley was found dead in the province's team hotel



Johan Cruyff.

in Paris in October. He had suffered a build-up of fluid on his lungs as a result of heart disease. He was 42.

### PHIL GARTSIDE

On the Bolton board since 1988, Gartside served as club chairman from 1999 until stepping away from his duties in November 2015. He died in February at the age of 63.

### BAHMAN GOLBARN-EZHAD

The Iranian paracyclist, aged 48, became the first Paralympic athlete to die in competition after a crash in September's men's road race in Rio.

### SYLVIA GORE

England's first goalscorer in women's international football died in September at the age of 71. She made history on November 18, 1972 in a 3-2 victory over Scotland in England's first official match.

## Those we lost in 2016 ...

### HANIF MOHAMMAD

The former Pakistan captain, who died aged 81 in August, retains the record for the longest Test innings in term of time, which saw him take just over 16 hours to piece together a game-saving 337 against West Indies in Bridgetown in 1957.

### JOAO HAVELANGE

Brazilian Havelange, FIFA president from 1974 to 1998, died at the age of 100 in August.

### TRIFON IVANOV

The former Bulgaria defender was part of their run to the semi-finals of the 1994 World Cup. He died of a heart attack in February aged 50.

### CESARE MALDINI

Maldini, the former Italy and AC Milan coach who also played for both like his son Paolo, died in April aged 84.

### ARNOLD PALMER



Arnold Palmer

The American seven-time major winner was one of the most beloved figures in golf. His death in September came just over two weeks on from his 87th birthday.

### GARY SPRAKE

Former Wales and Leeds goalkeeper Sprake helped the club win the 1968-69 First Division title. He died in October aged 71.

### WALTER SWINBURN

One of the most renowned jockeys of his generation Swinburn, three-time Epsom Classic winner, winner of the 1983 Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe and Breeders' Cup in 1996 and rider of the brilliant Shergar, died in December aged 55.

### MIKE TOWELL

The Scottish boxer died in hospital in September after he was seriously injured in a fifth-round loss to Dale Evans. He was 25.

# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# The great story

By Simon Carter



EASTLEIGH'S FA Cup opponents Brentford are enjoying their best spell in the second tier of English football for over 60 years.

And it's overseen by the man whose Danish club knocked Saints out of the Europa League last season! But more of that later ...

For many years, the Bees have traditionally been found in the bottom two divisions of the Football League.

Between 1954 and 2014, they played all but one season in either the third or fourth tier.

That one season was 1992/93, when Brentford - up as third division champions - were immediately relegated 12 months later.

All that has changed in recent years, though, and the club are now in their third successive Championship season - having finished in the top ten in the first two.

Of course, Championship football was what Martin Allen was close to bringing to Griffin Park in his two years in charge.

The current Eastleigh boss rejuvenated the club, taking them to the League 1 play off semi finals in 2004/05 and 2005/06 seasons.

His departure, in the summer of 2006, kickstarted a rapid decline.

After two top four finishes, and with Allen now at MK Dons, Brentford slumped to rock bottom spot in 2006/07 - an incredible loss of form.

Following on from Allen, who boasted a 54 per cent win record from his 124 games in charge, was Leroy Rosenior.

He was sacked in November, having won just three games in all competitions, and was replaced by former Bees player Scott Fitzgerald, who Allen had appointed to his youth coaching staff during his time in charge.

Fitzgerald was no more successful than Rosenior and himself was sacked the day after relegation had been confirmed the following April.

Brentford, having gone down the route of appointing a managerial novice (Fitzgerald), then went for a big name boss - ex-England defender Terry Butcher.

That was also a spectacular flop, with Butcher sacked in December 2007 with the Bees just above the League 2 drop zone - recent results having included a 7-0 drubbing at Peterborough.

Deciding it was time to revisit the 'managerial novice' route, Butcher's assistant, Andy Scott, was placed in charge of team af-



Saints take on FC Midtjylland in the Europa League in August 2015.

fairs.

It was to prove a masterstroke.

Pulling the club out of a relegation battle in 2007/08, Scott masterminded Brentford's rise to the League 2 title in his first full season.

Striker Charlie MacDonald, one of his summer signings from Southend, was top scorer with 16 league goals and Marcus Bean,

who Scott had brought south from Blackpool, was next highest with nine.

The Bees went on to establish themselves back in the third tier, prior to Matthew Benham taking over as the club's owner in the summer of 2012.

He was already known to all fans, having paid out nearly £3m in early 2007 to take over some of

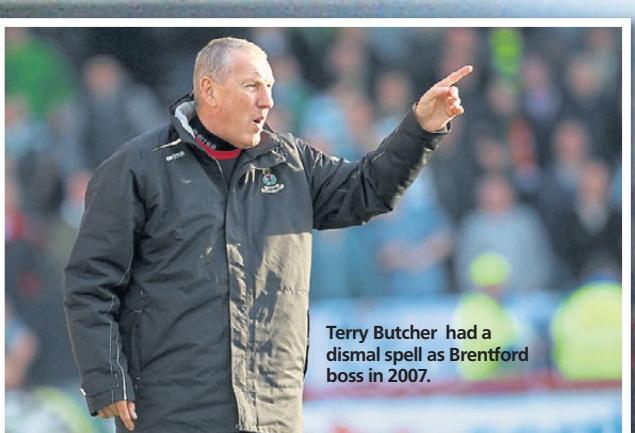
the club's loans and debts.

A lifelong Bees fan, Benham made his fortune as a Hedge Fund manager and professional gambler.

He owns two companies in the betting industry - Smartodds and Matchbook.

Smartodds is a company that provides in-depth statistical analysis to professional gamblers,

# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL of Benham's Bees



while Matchbook is a sports betting exchange.

Two years after gaining overall control at Griffin Park, Benham became the majority shareholder at Danish club FC FC Midtjylland.

In his first season as owner, Midtjylland won the Danish League title for the first time ever. It wasn't exactly a shock on the scale of Leicester winning the

Premier League - they had been runners-up twice and third twice in the previous eight years.

Midtjylland then progressed beyond the knockout stages of the Europa League and into the group stages for the first time ever - stunning Ronald Koeman's Saints 2-1 on aggregate in the final play-off round.

It was a remarkable win, and

another chapter in Benham's incredible footballing tale.

For Matthew Benham is no ordinary owner.

In a nutshell, he has put in place a model at both Brentford and FC Midtjylland that mirrors Moneyball.

The phrase 'Moneyball' comes from the book and movie of the same name which depicts the

## Sir Bradley - in his own words ...

Sir Bradley Wiggins has announced his retirement from cycling, ending a career that saw him win a British record eight Olympic medals as well as the country's first Tour de France title.

Yet it is not just Wiggins' sporting achievements which will endure, with the likeable Londoner always armed with a quip or two.

Here are his most memorable quotes.

"Right, we're just going to draw the raffle numbers..."

*Wiggins steps onto the podium after winning the Tour De France in 2012.*

"Kids from Kilburn don't become favourite for the Tour de France. You're supposed to become a postman or a milkman or work in Ladbrokes."

*Reflections after winning the Olympic road time trial in the same year.*

"It is nice to be recognised for actually achieving



Sir Bradley Wiggins.

something in life as opposed to spending seven weeks in a house on TV with a load of other muppets."

*A dig at Big Brother after finishing fourth in the Tour de France prologue in 2007.*

"That's the closest I'll ever come to knowing what it's like to have a baby. It was just torture."

*An eye-watering analogy after his successful UCI Hour Record attempt in 2015.*

"To my nan, the cheque is in the post because you pressed redial so many times!"

*Wiggins wins the vote to be crowned BBC Sports Personality of the Year 2012.*

"What will stick with me forever is the support and love from the public though thick and thin, all as a result of riding a pushbike for a living."

*Wiggins thanks the fans after announcing his retirement.*

revolutionary approach Major League Baseball official Billy Beane took to revolutionise his team, the Oakland Athletics.

With a small budget, Beane recognised if his scouts and coaches copied the methods of the big teams they would fail.

Instead, Oakland relied heavily on statistical analysis to identify undervalued players they could acquire cheaply, as well as selling players they thought to be overvalued.

"I am convinced that we can create a sound and sustainable top club – not by outspending other clubs but by outthinking them and by being more effective," Benham said on taking over the Danish club in July 2014.

Within 13 months, he would be proved right - Midtjylland beating a Saints team that cost millions more to assemble.

Success has also followed at Brentford, even if European glory nights are still some way off.

In 2012/13, Benham's first as owner, the club finished third in League 1.

Had Brentford beaten Doncaster at Griffin Park on the last day of the season, they would have gone up automatically.

In injury time, with the score 0-0, the Bees were awarded a penalty. If they scored it, they would be up.

Amazingly, Fulham loanee Marcello Trotta smashed his spot-kick against the crossbar and, to rub salt into gaping wounds, Doncaster quickly broke to score the game's only goal.

The Bees, managed by ex-Saints striker Uwe Rosler, then lost the play-off final 2-1 to Yeovil Town.

Following that heartbreak, Brentford regrouped and won automatic promotion 12 months later - returning to the second tier for the first time since 1993.

Clayton Donaldson was top league scorer with 17 while Trotta, back for a second loan spell and determined to make up for the agonising way his first had ended, struck 12 times.

Rosler had departed for Wigan midway through the season, with Benham promoting sporting director Mark Warburton to the manager's role.

It would be the start of an unlikely route that would take Warburton - who had never held a senior managerial role before - to one of the most famous clubs in European football.

Back in the second tier, Brentford made an instant impact - finishing fifth, the club's highest league position since 1947 (when they finished bottom of the old First Division).

*Continued on page 28*

## The next superstars?

The next 12 months could see the emergence of a number of up-and-coming British stars onto the global sporting scene.

Here, the Sports Pink selects 10 to look out for in 2017.

### Jack Clifford (rugby union)

It will take an exceptional player to have an impact at a time when England are in such fine form, but the 23-year-old Harlequin has significant potential. Crucially, the back-row forward plays in a position where England head coach Eddie Jones does not seem entirely satisfied with his options.

### Kyle Edmund (tennis)

The British number two followed a promising 2015 with an even better 12 months in which he secured several breakthrough victories and reached the



**Haseeb Hameed**

fourth round of the US Open, where he was eliminated by then-world number one Novak Djokovic. For a 21-year-old who before 2016 had won only one match at a grand slam, such progress and also winning Davis Cup matches bodes well.

### Haseeb Hameed (cricket)

Hameed, 19, might just prove the most promising British cricketer of his generation. His technical ability - demonstrated in the two Tests he played on the tour of India - could even make him Alastair Cook's best partner of the 11 openers to have featured since Andrew Strauss' retirement.

### Amy Tinkler (gymnastics)

The 17-year-old established her reputation at the Rio 2016 Olympics, where she won a bronze on the women's floor. *Continued on facing page*

# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# Will 'Moneyball'

from page 27

In came Andre Gray, a £500,000 striker from Luton Town, fresh out of the Conference. He had never played at Championship level before, but struck 18 goals in 2014/15 - and was then sold to Burnley for £9m, a tidy profit in just over 12 months.

Warburton also brought in attacking midfielder Jota from Spanish club Eibar, a player who had never appeared in English football before.

There were also impressive loan signings, including Arsenal's Jon-Miquel Toral and Tottenham's Alex Pritchard.

The results were equally impressive - 4-0 v Wolves, 4-1 at Fulham, 3-1 at Nottingham Forest 2-0 v Leeds, 2-1 at Norwich.

There was no happy ending to the Premier League dream, though, as Middlesbrough won the two-legged play-off semi final 5-1.

By that stage, Warburton knew he was on the way out.



In fact, he had known since February 2015.

With the club sitting fifth in the second tier - truly giddy stuff for Bees fans - Benham announced Warburton would be leaving after the season finished.

"The owner of the club is looking for a different direction, he wants to adopt a more European model," Warburton said at the time.

"One with a sporting director and head coach, where the head coach hasn't got the absolute veto on players coming into the club."

"In all truth it's not a model that sat very comfortably with me and I think you have to be totally honest to take a club forward in the right way."

"The owner Matthew's business is statistical analysis of players in leagues around the world and it's a magnificent resource we've tapped into over the last few months, we've utilised it really



**Andre Gray**, right, celebrates scoring for Brentford in their 2014/15 Championship play-off reaching season. Above left - Brentford's record signing, Danish defender Andreas Bjelland.

well."

While Warburton left in the summer to take over at Glasgow Rangers - and who would ever have thought, 20 years ago, that the Scottish giants would be in the market for Brentford's manager! - Benham brought in Danish coach Marinus Dijkhuizen with Flemming Pedersen installed as Head of Football Philosophy.

Within weeks, Brentford had made Danish international defender Andreas Bjelland - who had worked with Pedersen at Danish club Nordsjælland the club's record signing at around £2m.

Unfortunately, he was injured early on in his Griffin Park career and missed most of the 2015/16 season.

Dijkhuizen didn't last long, dis-

missed after just eight games of the season amid rumours of disharmony in the squad.

Following the way in which they had treated Warburton, the Bees were in danger of turning into a laughing stock.

Writing in the Daily Mail, Martin Samuel said: "Mathematical modelling is the philosophy at Brentford this season. Yet here's

# PINK NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# system pay off?



Former Southampton Tyro League footballer John Swift, above right, was on loan to Brentford last season.



Alex Pritchard, who was on loan from Tottenham, celebrates a Brentford goal in 2014/15.

an anomaly. When, after eight games, the team were in 19th place with just eight points and a single win at home, Brentford didn't sack the analytics experts. They fired the manager.

"Marinus Dijkhuizen is gone, along with his assistant Roy Hendriksen, amid reports of disorganised training sessions and serious doubts about their stew-

ardship, expressed by first-team players. All sounds a bit subjective, doesn't it, for a regime run by numbers?"

Rasmus Ankersen, the club's co-director of football, claimed Dijkhuizen's dismissal was not purely down to results.

"It was not a decision based on eight league games, it was based on three months of training and

## The next superstars?

*from facing page*

It is with that confidence and momentum that she is likely to impress again in front of a home crowd at April's World Cup of Gymnastics, at London's 02 Arena.

### Charlie Maddock (taekwondo)

The fast and explosive Maddock, 21, may have missed out on qualification for Rio 2016, but she has emerged as a real prospect for Tokyo 2020.

### Adam Yates (cycling)

The previously little-known Yates, 24, was named the best young rider of the 2016 Tour de France after finishing fourth overall.

### Tammy Abraham (football)

Prolific in the Championship with Bristol City, and with the manager



Brentford boss Dean Smith.

there were some fundamental processes – in terms of getting a full football operation to work to its maximum – that weren't at the level we wanted them to be and this was our concern," he said.

"It could have an influence, or a negative impact, on results in the longer term if we didn't take action immediately."

Next in at Griffin Park was Dean Smith, who had taken Walsall into the League 1 promotion race after a few seasons paddling around the mid-table regions of the third tier.

Smith oversaw a revival, the Bees rising to finish ninth.

They won six of their last seven games, with Danish striker Lasse Vibe - in his first season at the club after arriving from Swedish outfit Gothenburg - ending with 14 goals.

Scott Hogan, a £750,000 signing from Rochdale, was also given a chance to shine, while ex-Southampton Tyro League midfielder John Swift starred on loan from Chelsea.

Hogan has taken centre stage this season, with 13 pre-Christmas Championship goals to his name - enough to spark speculation that West Bromwich Albion are interested in him.

In Smith's first full season, results have so far been inconsistent and, at the time of writing, the Bees are mid-table.

Compared to losing 7-0 in a fourth tier game at Peterborough, these are times of plenty.

But Benham will be a frustrated man, as the Bees show no real signs of gatecrashing the Championship promotion race.

Can 'Moneyball' methods really work in the richest football league on planet earth?

It would be fascinating to see Benham and his Bees give it a go.

For the romantics among us, it would be up there with Bournemouth's meteoric rise.

They have to get there first, and to do so the former professional gambler will need to take a few more risks in west London ...



Tammy Abraham

of his parent club, Antonio Conte, finally ready to embrace Chelsea's young players, the 19-year-old striker can be expected to continue excelling over the coming 12 months.

### Liam Williams (boxing)

That Williams, 24, was named the Boxing Writers' Club's Young Boxer of 2016 was just the latest demonstration he is likely to prove Wales' best fighter since Joe Calzaghe.

### Matthew Fitzpatrick (golf)

Fitzpatrick can truly justify so many considering him one of the world's finest young golfers if he can apply the experience he has gathered. The 22-year-old from Sheffield recently followed making his Ryder Cup debut by winning the Tour Championship.

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**PINK****NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL**

## 'A message from God'

Sir Bradley Wiggins has announced his retirement from competitive cycling. Here the Sports Pink looks at five things about him

### BORN IN THE VELODROME

Some of Wiggins' earliest memories are from Ghent's 't Kuipke velodrome, where his father Gary competed as a Six Day racer. Although his father was soon estranged, Wiggins began racing at Herne Hill Velodrome in London and the Eastway track, which is now the site of the London Olympic Velodrome.

### TRAILBLAZER

Wiggins became the first cyclist on the Lottery-funded world-class performance programme.

His talent was recognised by then British Cycling



**Bradley Wiggins**

performance director Peter Keen in 1998 and it set in motion a career which had many varied achievements on both the track and the road.

### QUEEN AND 'GOD'

After becoming the first British winner of the Tour's yellow jersey in 2012, Wiggins received a letter from the Queen and a direct Twitter message from ex-Liverpool striker Robbie Fowler. "I had a message from God," Liverpool fan Wiggins said.

### SQUABBLING

Wiggins and Mark Cavendish have been two of the main protagonists in British cycling's boom. They have twice won the world Madison title (in 2008 and 2016) and have had periods where they did not speak at all. Wiggins played an integral role in Cavendish's 2011 road world title win.

## Swanage planning Wessex League return

AMBITIONOUS Swanage Town & Herston have applied to join the Sydenhams Wessex League after securing a new lease on their Day's Park headquarters.

The club recently announced that agreement had been reached with Swanage Town Council for a 100-year lease on the site. A statement on the Swans' website described it as a "momentous oc-

casion for everyone at the club".

They added their thanks to mayor Steve Poultney, town clerk Martin Ayres and all the Swanage councillors for their "confidence in us and their help in obtaining this lease".

The club also highlighted the support of Bob Foster from Swanage and Purbeck Development Trust who, their statement said,

had been "instrumental in the process and we owe a lot to his advisory role to the committee at the club".

On the back of obtaining the lease, Swanage are hoping to gain promotion from the Dorset Premier League to Division One of the Wessex.

Club secretary Mari Watson informed the committee that their

application had been submitted to the FA.

Day's Park would need to pass ground-grading criteria for step six and the Swans would need to finish in the top three of the DPL, subject to FA ratification.

The Swans, currently third in DPL, had two previous spells in the Wessex League, finishing runners-up in 1991.

## Bentley to join Gosport exodus?

By Wendy Gee



FORMER Winchester City hotshot Warren Bentley was this week among a quartet of players looking to join the exodus from troubled National League South club Gosport Borough.

Bentley, Dan Wooden and ex-Sholing duo Mike Carter and TJ Cuthbertson all missed Borough's 2-0 home defeat by Poole Town on Boxing Day and look set to follow Chris Flood, Jamie Barron, Adam Wilde and goalkeeper Martin Rice out of the Aerial Direct Stadium door.

A report on Borough's own website stated: "Four players declared themselves unavailable for the Boxing Day clash with the Dolphins, stating their intention to leave the club as soon as possible.

"Dan Wooden, Mike Carter, Warren Bentley and TJ Cuthbertson were all missing, while Brett Poate failed a late fitness test but was still named as substitute on a day when Boro' failed to fill their quota on the bench.

"The quartet should now resolve their futures this week."

Borough - currently under a transfer embargo - had fallen behind with players' wages but, in a statement issued over Christmas, the club said: "GBFC can confirm that the playing staff have been paid. The club wishes to unreservedly apologise to them for the distress and great inconvenience caused.

"The club also places on record its sincerest gratitude for them continuing to give their all on the field in the most difficult of circumstances."

Borough's statement also confirmed the receipt of a fresh winding-up petition issued by Her Majesty's Revenue & Customs.



**Warren Bentley, right, in action for Winchester.**

Just as before, however, they are confident it will dismissed.

"The club wishes to reassure its players, officials, volunteers, supporters and the general public that the relevant tax and VAT bill to this order has been settled in full with HMRC," Borough stated.

"We fully expect this latest petition to be dismissed at the scheduled hearing on Monday, January 30."

With a takeover of the club at "an advanced stage", Gosport have all the more incentive to get themselves on a sound financial footing.

The statement continued: "We can confirm the imminent takeover of the club is at an advanced stage and we are hopeful this can be finalised and the new owner announced before the new year.

"When these matters are satis-

factorily concluded, a further announcement will be made.

"Bearing in mind that the club has now settled these financial matters, we are hopeful that the National League will lift the transfer embargo currently imposed on the club shortly.

"This will allow our management team to replace the players who have recently left the club at the earliest opportunity."

PINK

NON LEAGUE FOOTBALL

# Allen all set to toughen Tyler up

By Wendy Gee



DONCASTER Rovers boss Darren Ferguson believes Martin Allen is the right man to "toughen up" 20-year-old Tyler Garratt.

The left-back has joined Allen's Eastleigh on a month's loan and made his debut in Tuesday's 2-2 draw with Boreham Wood at the Silverlake.

The defender joined Doncaster from Bolton in June this year for an undisclosed fee, thought to be in the region of £25,000, and signed a three-year deal at the Keepmoat Stadium.

Lincoln-born Garratt had linked up with Bolton's academy in 2013 but, when a first professional contract failed to materialise, he opted to join Donny when his scholarship came to an end.

As well as getting the youngster game time, Ferguson – son of Sir Alex – believes a spell with experienced ex-Barnet boss Allen will harden him up.

Garratt has made seven appearances for Rovers, five of them starts, but only one of them in League Two.

He said: "Tyler's hardly played any real first-team football."

"We got him as a young boy coming out of Bolton. We managed to nick him really, because they wanted to keep him."

"I feel going to Eastleigh in that league with Martin as his manager he will taste that different sort of environment which will toughen him up."

It's the perfect move for him. I'm really pleased he's got that move.

"Tyler's got a lot of good at-



Tyler Garratt

tributes. Certainly, going to that sort of environment, he'll have to toughen up quick."

Garratt – selected in place of an under-the-weather Michael Green

– made an instant impact for Eastleigh, providing the eighth-minute cross from which James Constable fired the Spittires in front.

"He did well," said Allen. "Ty-

ler's only a young lad and he drove down on Christmas Day and stayed in a hotel on his own.

"He's a good, young player with pace and energy"

## Donald: We don't have a director of football



Stewart Donald

EASTLEIGH chairman Stewart Donald has clarified that the Spittires do NOT have a director of football.

There was some confusion when a recent press release, issued by the club itself, stated that "director of football Matt Lewton" was the man to contact regarding enquiries for transfer-listed duo Ayo Obileye and Ryan Bird.

Donald said: "We do not have a director of football. We are unlikely to have one unless we can get close to the Championship, I would imagine."

"Matt Lewton has been brought into the club to help with scouting, player recruitment, contracts and, dare I say it, player sales."

"He is a very well connected and extremely hardworking guy who has a lot of experience and contacts. We thought he would be an asset to the club."

"I will reflect on a job title for him over the Christmas period but, in essence, he helps Martin (Allen, manager) and myself with whatever we ask, from organising travel, ensuring the players have what they need, lunches, scout-

ing, and all the things mentioned above."

"With the type of players and profile of the club now, one big area we have not particularly needed before is maximising interest in our players to ensure we get the right transfer fees and structure when selling players."

"I have no experience of this and we have three players attracting a lot of interest - possibly four."

"We do not want to lose them but, if we do, then we certainly need to make sure we get good value."

## Identity crisis

Swansea are on the lookout for their third manager of the season after sacking Bob Bradley.

His replacement has a number of issues to tackle and here, the Sports Pink looks at three key ones.

### What's their identity?

Swansea's rise from the Football League trapdoor to European football was well documented and their clear, passing style applauded. Started by Roberto Martinez, continued by Paulo Sousa, Brendan Rodgers, Michael Laudrup and Garry Monk, that style has gone missing over recent months.

The new manager needs to find a way to play and stick to it.

### Bad defence



Fernando Llorente, left.

Swansea have the worst defence in the Premier League, their 41 goals conceded at least eight more than everyone except Hull (39). Bradley's replacement needs to find a way to remedy this. Kyle Bartley has been excellent out on loan at Leeds and cannot be recalled. Ex-Swan Steven Caulker - on loan at Saints at the start of last season - is still only 24, at QPR, and might be worth a look if his hip problem has cleared up.

### Make the most of Fernando Llorente

Spain striker Llorente is by far the club's most decorated player and has a CV that lists Athletic Bilbao, Juventus and Sevilla.

He has scored six goals this season and four of them earned Bradley his two wins, but he remains unable to cement a regular spot. Swansea should be building their team around him.

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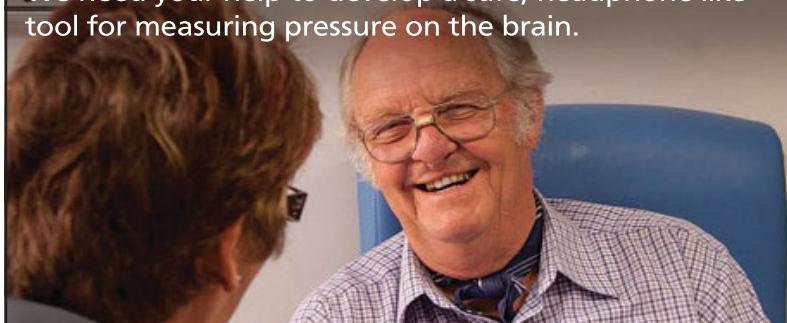
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For your convenience coupons may be posted in our **FIND THE BALL** collecting boxes located at selected newsagents and all branch offices

Deadlines for branch office collection boxes are as follows:  
Bournemouth Echo 12 noon Tuesday  
Southern Daily Echo 12noon Tuesday  
Dorset Echo Closing time Monday

Deadlines for selected newsagents collection boxes as listed in:  
Bournemouth Echo closing time Monday  
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A list of participating newsagents will be published in the Echoes on the first Saturday of each month

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There's so much more on offer at your local supermarket – from food to fashion, toys to toiletries, groceries to gadgets and all under one roof!

By entering this competition you could find yourself the winner of a £100 giftcard to spend as you wish. Whether you decide to spend your windfall on the weekly shop or splash out on a treat for you or the family, the choice is yours!



**HOW TO ENTER:** Answer the simple question below, then follow the entry instructions:  
Q: Complete the title of this well known 90s game show hosted by Dale Winton, Supermarket....

a) Dash b) Sprint c) Sweep

**By text:** Text the keyword **SHOP** followed by a space, then your answer, your name, postcode and first line of your home address and send to **80360**.

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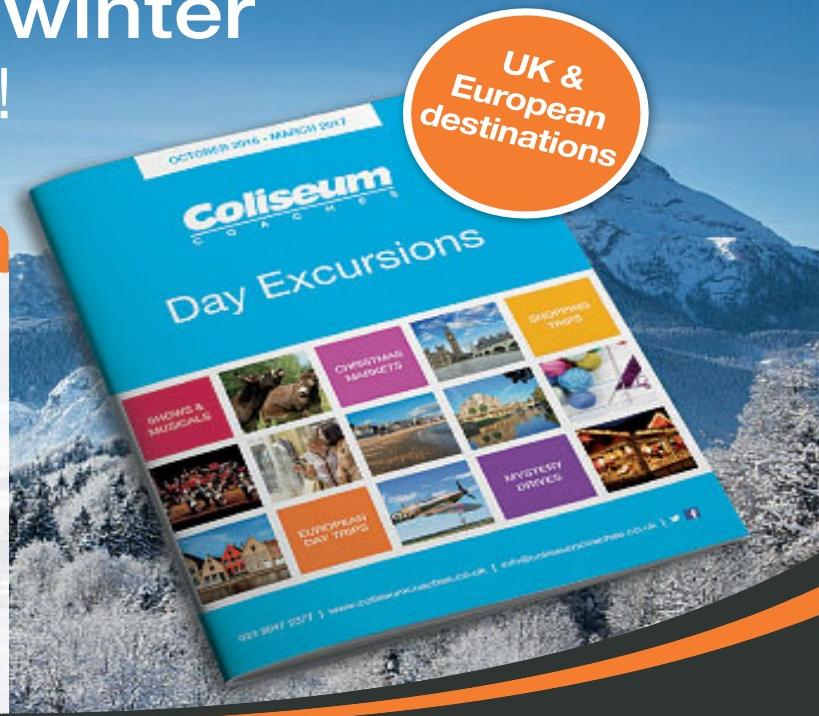
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## Brighten up your winter with a great day out!

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### DAY TRIPS DEPARTING SOON...

11 JAN	Lakeside World Darts Championships	£23
12 JAN	Lakeside World Darts Championships	£23
13 JAN	All Day Mystery Tour	£21
21 JAN	London Model Engineering Exhibition	£35
22 JAN	Bruges via Eurotunnel	£40
26 JAN	Adinkerke via Eurotunnel	£40
28 JAN	Crafting Live at Sandown Park	£28
02 FEB	Calais via Eurotunnel	£30
07 FEB	Adinkerke via Eurotunnel	£40
14 FEB	Snowdrops at Nymans	£32
15 FEB	Biggin Hill VIP Hangar Tour	£75
18 FEB	Portobello Road Market	£21



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\*All day excursions are subject to availability.

# Grand Re-Opening

## 7th & 8th JANUARY



- New Gym Refurbishment
- New Life Fitness Equipment
- New Membership Options for 16 -19yrs olds



**NO  
JOINING FEE  
FOR NEW MEMBERSHIPS**

To celebrate there will be No Joining Fee for any new members who sign up on the weekend of the 7th & 8th.

**1 MONTH  
FREE MEMBERSHIP  
WHEN EXISTING MEMBERS  
REFER A FRIEND**

Existing members have the opportunity for a free month's membership when they refer a friend to become a member.



Membership terms and conditions apply. See Leisure Centre Reception for more details.

**WILDERN LEISURE CENTRE, WILDERN LANE, HEDGE END, SO30 4EJ**

**TEL: 01489 787128**

**EMAIL: [LEISURE@WILDERN.HANTS.SCH.UK](mailto:LEISURE@WILDERN.HANTS.SCH.UK)**

# PINK

# RESULTS

## SATURDAY'S FOOTBALL RESULTS AND TABLES

Premier League																	
Hull	.....	2	Everton						2								
Dawson	6					Marshall 45 og			2								
Snodgrass	65					Barkey 84			2								
HT 1-1						Att 20,111											
Burnley	.....	4	Sunderland			..... 1											
Gray	31,51,53					Defoe 2											
Barker	67	pen				At 21,124											
Chelsea	.....	4	Stoke			..... 2			2								
Cahill	34					Martins Indi 46			2								
Willian	57,65					Crouch 64											
Costa	85					At 41,603											
Leicester	.....	1	West Ham			..... 0			0								
Silva	20					At 32,060											
HT 1-0						L			L								
Liverpool	.....	L	Man City			..... 1			1								
HT L-L						Leaderboard 67											
Man Utd	.....	2	Middlesb.			..... 1			1								
Martial	85					Robson-Kanu 50			1								
Pogba	86					At 30,975			2								
HT 0-0						Phillips 45			2								
SAINTS	.....	1	W.B.A.			..... 3			3								
Long	41					At 75,314			3								
Swansea	.....	0	AFC Bournemouth			..... 3			3								
HT 1-1						At 30,316			3								
HT 0-2																	
HOME						AWAY											
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	PT						
Chelsea	9	9	0	1	28	6	7	1	12	7	49						
Liverpool	18	9	2	7	30	6	7	2	13	7	49						
Man City	18	9	2	1	17	9	7	2	22	11	39						
Arsenal	18	6	2	1	19	10	5	2	20	20	36						
Tottenham	18	7	2	0	19	5	3	4	24	8	36						
Man Utd	19	5	4	1	16	8	5	2	13	11	36						
Everton	19	4	4	1	12	10	3	2	15	16	27						
W.B.A.	19	1	3	2	13	9	2	3	14	11	27						
SAINTS	18	4	3	3	10	11	2	4	9	11	24						
Bournemouth	19	5	1	3	16	12	2	2	6	10	24						
Burnley	19	7	1	3	19	11	0	1	7	13	24						
Watford	18	4	2	3	14	13	2	2	5	8	17						
West Ham	19	4	2	3	9	14	2	2	6	14	19						
Leicester	19	3	3	2	16	10	2	3	5	9	17						
Middlesb.	19	3	1	5	9	10	1	5	4	8	12						
Crystal P.	18	2	1	6	12	13	2	3	4	17	20						
Sunderland	19	3	1	5	11	15	1	1	6	2	14						
Hull	19	2	3	5	11	20	1	1	7	5	21						
Swansea	19	2	2	4	16	23	1	7	5	7	21						

Rochdale	2	Shrewsbry	1
Henderson 28		Toney 86	
Davies 28			Att 3,235
HT 2-0			
Bolton	2	Scunthorpe	1
Henry 90		Bishop 62	
HT 1-0			Att 17,062
Bradford	1	Bury	1
Law 52		Burgess 93	
HT 0-1		Att 18,012	
Bristol R	2	AFC Wimbledon	0
Taylor 61,70			
HT 0-0			Att 10,093
Fleetwood Town	1	Oldham	0
Hoog 90			
HT 0-0			Att 3,189
Oxford Utd.	0	Walsall	0
HT 0-0			
Peterboro.	1	Coventry	1
Bostwick 90		Willis 99	
HT 0-1		Att 5,866	
Sheff Utd	1	Northmptn	0
Freeman 89			
HT 0-0			Att 24,194
Sunderland	1	Charlton	1
Cox 24		Crofts 89	
HT 1-0		Att 10,329	
	HOME	AWAY	
	P W D L F A	W D L F A	
Sheff Utd	24 10 2 2 21 8	5 4 2 2 22 15	50
D	24 9 3 1 19 6	5 3 2 1 21 19	49
Scunthorpe	24 7 4 0 26 7	3 2 2 4 21 15	48
Rochdale	24 10 1 0 28 9	3 2 6 0 10 21	42
Bradford	24 5 8 0 19 9	4 4 3 0 11 19	33
Southend	24 6 5 0 21 13	4 3 3 0 14 16	30
Peterboro.	23 5 9 3 24 15	5 2 2 3 13 10	37
Walsall	24 7 3 0 22 12	4 1 2 1 17 25	36
Bristol	24 7 3 3 24 19	3 3 5 0 15 21	36
Wimbledon	24 4 3 4 22 15	4 5 4 1 12 15	32
Charlton	24 4 4 3 14 9	3 7 3 1 15 16	32
Oxford Utd.	24 6 4 3 16 11	2 3 6 1 17 31	31
Northmptn	24 4 5 0 18 16	3 4 4 0 14 31	31
Gillingham	24 5 4 2 16 11	3 2 8 1 18 26	30
Port Vale	24 7 3 3 21 15	1 3 7 6 22 30	29
K Dons	24 2 4 7 14 23	5 2 4 15 11 27	27
Swindon	24 5 1 5 13 11	1 5 7 11 27 27	27
Bury	24 4 5 1 17 20	2 4 5 7 18 26	26
Wolverwesby	24 5 1 5 17 19	1 2 6 10 24 21	25
Chesterfield	24 3 5 3 11 9	1 3 9 6 19 26	20
Coventry	24 3 5 3 11 9	2 5 6 8 16 18	18
Oldham	23 1 4 5 4 11		

Vanarama National League										
Boreham W	.....	0	EASTLEIGH	.....	Wilson	.....	.....	.....	.....	
HT 0-0									Att 44	
Gateshead	.....	4	Barrow	.....	Livesey	.....	.....	.....	.....	
Hannant 26									.....	
Bell 39									.....	
Burrow 49									.....	
York 70									.....	
HT 2-1									Att 81	
HOME					AWAY					
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	
Tranmere	26	10	1	2	19	8	6	4	3	17
Lincoln City	25	8	3	2	28	10	8	1	3	24
Forest Grm	25	6	1	2	12	8	0	4	4	14
Barrow	25	8	4	0	23	7	4	3	18	17
Dagenham	26	6	3	4	18	17	1	4	22	14
Dover	25	8	1	4	30	20	6	2	6	18
Gateshead	27	5	7	2	25	13	5	2	6	16
Chester FC	26	8	2	3	28	13	2	7	4	14
EASTLEIGH	26	3	3	20	14	4	6	4	20	19
Aldershot	26	9	1	3	21	8	2	5	6	11
Boreham W	27	6	3	5	12	9	4	5	4	17
Bromley	26	6	2	5	16	19	5	3	5	20
Gravesend	24	5	1	5	14	10	6	3	4	18
Sutton Utd	25	8	2	3	18	14	1	3	8	10
Wrexham	26	6	4	3	13	11	2	4	7	9
Solihull M	25	5	2	5	22	22	3	4	6	13
Torquay	25	6	3	3	19	13	2	2	9	6
Braintree Tn	25	2	3	7	12	21	5	3	5	16
Maidstone	26	3	3	7	14	25	4	2	7	15
Woking	25	5	4	4	22	18	1	2	9	14
Southport	25	4	4	5	20	24	2	2	8	9
Guiseley	26	5	4	4	22	18	0	3	10	7
York	26	3	6	4	15	14	1	3	9	8
N Ferndy	26	4	2	7	8	14	2	1	10	5

## **13 not unlucky for Chelsea**

**Chelsea** extended their Premier League winning streak to 13 games with a 4-2 victory over Stoke on New Year's Eve.

**They are just one away from Arsenal's all-time record of 14 victories, having recovered from twice throwing away the lead against the Potters to claim another win.**

Antonio Conte's side will have the chance to match Arsenal's record when they take on Tottenham on Wednesday night.

Here are the Premier League's longest winning runs.

**14 WINS**  
**ARSENAL, February-August**  
**2002**  
Arsene Wenger's side finished their 2001-02 title-winning campaign with 13 successive wins and then beat Birmingham 2-0 in the opening game of the next, before a 2-2 draw with West Ham ended the run. It is the longest ever winning run in the English top flight, equalled in the second division by Manchester United in 1904-05, Bristol City the following season and Preston in 1950-51.

**12 WINS**  
**MANCHESTER UNITED,**  
**March-August 2000**

United won the 1999-2000 title by thumping 18-point margin, rounding it off with 11 straight wins and scoring 37 goals in the process - the run included 4-0 wins over Bradford and Sunderland, a 4-3 success at Middlesbrough and a 7-1 dismissal of West Ham featuring a Paul Scholes hat-trick. They opened the following season with a 2-0 win over Newcastle before drawing 1-1 against Ipswich.

**11 WINS**  
**CHELSEA, April-September**  
**2009**

Guus Hiddink's first spell as the Blues' interim manager ended - in league terms at least - with successive wins over West Ham, Fulham, Arsenal, Blackburn and Sunderland. Carlo Ancelotti then opened up with six straight wins to establish the club record Conte's men have passed, before the run was surprisingly ended by Wigan with the help of a Petr Cech dismissal and goals from Titus Bramble and Paul Scharner. Regardless, Chelsea went on to win the league and FA Cup double.

**MANCHESTER UNITED, December 2008-March 2009**  
Following United's return from the Club World Cup and against the backdrop of the famous press conference at which Rafael Benitez, then manager of title rivals Liverpool, read out his list of "facts", the Red Devils won 11 in a row. Liverpool themselves ended the run by winning 4-1 at Old Trafford but Sir Alex Ferguson's men finished four points ahead of their rivals to claim a third straight title.

SkyBet Championship											
Brighton.....			P	Cardiff.....			P				
Posponed - due to heavy fog.				2	Bristol C		1				
Ipswich	Bru 39	Pitman 87								Abraham 52	
HT 1-0										At 15,640	
Newcastle.....	3	Nottm For.....								1	
Ritchie 4										Dumitru 29	
Gayle 63,80											
HT 1-1										At 52,226	
Reading.....	A	Fulham.....								A	
HT 0-0											
weather.											
Barnsley.....	2	Birmingham.....								2	
Bradshaw 24										Maghoma 33	
Wimball 28										Jutkiewicz 52 per	
HT 2-1										Att 13,397	
Brentford.....	L	Norwich.....								L	
HT L-L											
Derby Cty.....	0	Wigan.....								0	
HT 0-0											
Huddersfid.....	1	Blackburn.....									
Wells 77										Graham 33	
HT 0-0										Att 21,315	
Preston.....	1	Sheff Wed.....								1	
Hutchinson 77 og										Reach 90	
HT 0-0										Att 14,802	
Wolves.....	1	Q.P.R.....								2	
Edwards 61										Sylla 53	
HT 0-0										Wszolek 87	
										Att 21,132	
HOME					AWAY						
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	A		
Newcastle	24	8	0	4	26	13	9	1	2	22	6
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P				

SkyBet League Two		
Cheltenham	0	Wycombe
HT 0-1		Kashket 1 Att 3,761
Hartlepool	3	Morecambe
Paynter 14 pen Feeherstone 24		Fleming 52 Edwards 90
HT 3-0		Att 2,996
Yeovil	0	POMPEY
HT 0-0		Att 6,306
Crewe	0	Acc Stanley
HT 0-1		Kea 43 Att 3,471
Grimsby	0	Blackpool
HT 0-0		Kea 3 Att 5,637
Leyton O.	1	Cambridge
Palmer 90		Dunk 21 Att 5,867
Tunton	1	Barnet
Sheehan 31 McGehee 49		Dembélé 37
Gilleead 56		
HT 1-1		
Mansfield	1	Doncaster
Green 59		Mandeville 77 pen Att 5,042
HT 0-0		
Newport County	1	Exeter
bigg 81		Watkins 45,47,90 Wheeler 53 Att 2,666
HT 0-1		
Notts Cnty	2	Carlisle
Steed 30 Forre 39		Wyke 10 Ibehre 45 Kennedy 65 Att 3,825
HT 2-2		

	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hibernian	19	5	3	1	18	6	6	3	1	14	5	39
Dundee Utd	19	7	2	0	15	6	4	3	3	12	8	38
Marconi	18	5	4	0	12	6	2	3	4	13	13	37
Colkirk	19	5	3	0	14	6	2	4	2	3	8	27
Raith	17	2	1	0	10	6	2	4	1	10	10	26
Queen St	19	3	3	0	14	15	2	3	4	10	10	26
Dumbarton	19	3	4	3	7	10	2	2	5	14	18	21
Ayr Utd	19	2	3	4	8	13	2	4	4	11	13	20
Dunfermline	18	3	3	3	14	16	1	3	5	8	13	18
St Mirren	19	1	4	5	6	13	1	2	6	12	21	12
<b>Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 1</b>												
<b>East Fife</b>	<b>2</b>					<b>Livingston</b>	<b>1</b>					
East Fife	14											Buchanan 14
Robinson 77												
<b>HT-0-1</b>						<b>Stranraer</b>						Att 66
<b>Queen Park</b>	<b>0</b>											Gibson 60
Queen Park	14											Att 55
Cook 9												
Shaw 90												
<b>HT-0-0</b>						<b>Alloa</b>	<b>4</b>					Cawley 29
<b>Stenhousemuir</b>	<b>2</b>											Spence 29
Cook 9												
Shaw 90												
<b>HT-1-3</b>												Kirkpatrick 44,73
												Att 33
	HOME					AWAY						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	P
Livingston	19	6	3	2	22	11	7	1	2	18	13	39
Aberdeenshire	18	4	1	4	12	17	6	1	2	18	13	38
Brechin	18	4	1	4	10	11	6	0	3	14	9	31
Alloa	19	3	3	3	16	12	5	3	2	23	15	30
Queen Park	19	4	1	5	8	12	4	2	3	10	12	29

Folkestone Invicta	0	Grays Athletic
HT 0-1		Bishop Att 5+
<b>Harlow</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Leatherh'd...</b>
Muggeo 60		Cash
Da Costa 79		
HT 0-1		Att 3+
<b>Harrow</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>Lowestoft Town</b>
Webb 3		Jarvis
Brown 34		Hodd
Kabba 38,76		
HT 3-1		Att 2+
<b>Havant and W.</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Kingstrian</b>
Paterson 90		Turner
HT 0-1		Att 7+
<b>Leiston</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Enfield Town</b>
Blake 90		Shulton
HT 0-0		Att 3+
<b>Merstham</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Burgess Hill Town</b>
Bennett 61		Medlock
Hector 66		Richmond
HT 0-0		Att 1+
<b>Met Police</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Bognor Regis Town</b>
HT 0-0		Brown
<b>Staines Town</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Hendon</b>
Coker 60		MacLaren
Clifton 62,70		Diedhiou
HT 0-1		Att 2+
<b>Worthing</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Tonbridge Angels</b>

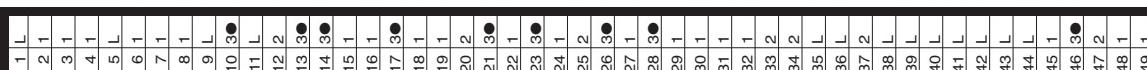
Reading	23	8	3	1	20	9	5	1	5	13	21	43
Huddersfield	24	8	2	2	17	11	6	1	5	12	17	43
Leeds United	24	7	3	15	9	6	5	4	5	16	15	42
Sheff Wed	24	8	3	16	11	4	5	3	5	12	10	40
Derby City	24	6	4	3	12	5	5	3	2	12	18	37
Southend	24	5	4	4	23	21	5	4	5	12	18	37
Barnsley	24	6	0	19	10	2	5	5	4	13	13	35
A. Villa	24	6	3	1	20	10	5	5	4	11	13	35
Birmingham	24	6	3	3	18	15	3	5	5	4	11	13
Norwich	23	7	3	21	11	3	7	7	7	17	26	33
Preston	24	5	3	15	18	4	3	4	14	16	21	33
Ipswich	24	5	5	3	16	12	3	2	6	8	15	31
Brentford	23	5	3	3	18	11	3	2	7	11	19	31
Walsall	24	5	3	4	13	10	2	2	9	18	22	37
Bristol C	24	5	3	4	13	10	2	2	9	18	22	37
Notm For	24	5	3	3	21	18	2	2	9	16	26	36
O.P.R.	24	3	3	6	10	18	4	2	6	12	17	26
Burton Alton	24	5	2	4	13	9	1	5	7	13	24	35
Cardiff	23	4	2	6	13	18	2	2	5	13	20	44
Blackburn	24	3	4	5	18	21	2	2	8	10	19	21
Wigan	24	2	3	6	8	13	2	2	7	12	17	21
Rotherham	24	3	3	6	15	19	0	1	11	10	33	34

Saturday												
Threlkeld 69 Tanner 90 HT 0-0		Stevenage 2 Kennedy 40 Goden 51		Colchester 4 Dickenson 15 Guthrie 19 pen Parker 10 Fudge 30 Att 3,076								
HT 1-2												
HOME					AWAY							
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pt	
Plymouth	23	7	3	21	21	8	0	2	16	7	48	
Carlisle	23	8	3	0	24	12	4	7	1	20	16	46
Bury	23	8	3	1	22	10	6	7	5	20	21	44
POMPEY	23	5	2	9	10	6	4	2	15	10	38	
Luton	23	5	4	3	19	14	5	4	2	15	15	38
Wycombe	23	7	1	2	15	7	4	4	5	15	18	38
Cambridge	23	4	2	5	13	15	6	3	8	11	15	35
Blackpool	23	5	3	2	20	10	4	4	5	16	14	34
Colchester	23	5	2	3	19	15	4	4	5	15	14	33
Barnet	23	3	5	2	14	15	5	4	3	18	13	30

Ladbrokes Scottish Lge 2						
Berwick	Sheirin 72	.....	1	Edinburgh City	.....	3
					McKee Gair Beattie 71 per	
HT 0-2					At 46	
<b>Clyde</b>	MacDonald 12.80 pen	.....	2	<b>Annan Athletic</b>	.....	3
					McKenna 52.60 Smith 89 At 46	
HT 1-0						
<b>Stirling A</b>	Bikay 54	.....	1	<b>Cowdenb.</b>	.....	2
HT 0-0					Renton 64 Moore 64 At 53	

HOME						AWAY				
P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A
Bognor R Tn	24	8	2	22	9	7	2	3	20	15
Needham M	25	8	3	26	18	6	4	2	18	11
Havant and W	23	7	3	25	11	6	3	2	20	16
Dulwich	27	6	3	5	32	26	5	7	1	20
Leiston	21	6	2	1	27	13	4	3	26	20
Torbridge Ang	23	5	3	2	19	10	6	2	5	15
Enfield Town	25	6	1	26	12	3	4	5	17	16
Lowestoft T	27	6	4	4	21	23	4	3	6	21
Worthing	24	6	2	4	26	22	5	1	6	19
Kingsthorpe	27	5	1	7	18	21	6	2	6	23
Harlow	25	9	0	2	23	9	2	3	9	16
Staines T	26	8	1	7	24	29	4	6	26	23
Kelstoke Fcn	24	7	4	3	25	10	1	3	6	15

POOLS  
CHECK



A standard linear barcode is positioned vertically on the right side of the page. It consists of vertical black bars of varying widths on a white background. To the right of the barcode, the number '52' is printed in a small, black, sans-serif font.

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